



City of La Porte Historic Preservation Commission Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, June 21, 2023 at 5:30 PM

City Hall, Council Chambers, 801 Michigan Avenue

A meeting of the City of La Porte Historic Preservation Commission ("Commission") was held at City Hall Council Chambers, 801 Michigan Avenue, La Porte, IN, 46350 on Wednesday, June 21, 2023 at 5:30 P.M. ("Local Time"), pursuant to notice duly given in accordance with the rules of the Commission and the Indiana Open Door Law.

This meeting was called to order at 5:37 PM by Sallie LaRocco, Chair.

On call of the roll, the members of the Commission were shown to be present or absent as follows:

MEMBERS PRESENT: Sallie LaRocco, Fonda Owens, Jeanne Rafaj, Cassandra Redeagle, and Bruce Johnson (Advisory Member).

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jo Happel and Maggie Caviston.

GUESTS PRESENT: David Heinold, Deb Parcell, Laura Konieczny, Peter Steele, and Mark Kurth.

MINUTES: Cassandra Redeagle made a motion to **approve the May 16, 2023 meeting minutes** and the motion was seconded by Jeanne Rafaj. The motion passed 4-0.

CORRESPONDENCE REPORTS (CLAIMS, COAs, Demolition Reports):

602 E Street – Replace windows; Exterior Repairs including siding, gutters, and painting; and Repair south side porch with structural support (**Staff approvals**)

Deb explained the staff approvals for 2023-COA-04 and 2023-COA-05 for replacing windows and exterior repairs.

1012 Monroe Street – Replace windows

Deb explained that staff and herself have been working with the property owner and applicant on potential alternatives to replacing windows. Deb and David met with the applicant to review the COA. Deb explained that the guidelines recommend repairing the windows rather than replacing and provided the property owner with a local contractor for consultation. Deb mentioned that the property owner is requesting a 30 day time extension to get quotes for repairing the windows. Jeanne Rafaj made a motion to **allow a 30 day time extension on 2023-COA-03 for the property owner to get quotes for repairing the windows** and the motion was seconded by Cassandra Redeagle. The motion passed 4-0.

602 E Street – Replace existing driveway; Install Handrail on Front Porch Steps and Replace wood lattice around the front and side porch and paint trim color

Deb explained the request to replace the existing driveway and improvements to the front and side of the porch. There was some board discussion about the COA request. Fonda Owens made a motion to **approve 2023-COA-06** and the motion was seconded by Cassandra Redeagle. The motion passed 4-0.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: None.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Coloring Book Fundraising – Bruce reported that they need coloring book sponsors to get the coloring books printed for the year. He mentioned that the board will need to find a place to add HPC to the front cover of the coloring book. The board discussed incorporating HPC into the front cover design.
- B. Sunflower Fair Booth Ideas – The board discussed ideas for the Sunflower Fair booth this fall. Cassandra mentioned the idea to have something for kids to stop by the booth such as cornhole or bozo buckets and allow the members to talk with the parents about HPC. Sallie mentioned to the board that HPC needs to work on getting a positive reputation with the community as part of the booth. Jeanne mentioned the idea to print a banner along with something vertical at the table such as balloons. Sallie and Fonda mentioned the idea to get costumes for dress up and take photos. They discussed a possibly doing a photo booth fundraiser for some kind of youth scholarship. There was board discussion about decorations for the booth. Sallie appointed Jeanne to create a plan for Sunflower Booth decorations. Jeanne mentioned that she will look into balloons, flags, and mums for the booth. Cassandra Redeagle left the meeting at 6:04 pm. Fonda mentioned that she can help with getting a photo booth and possibly recruit youth to help with this space. Sallie will look into costume rentals and recruit youth to help with the project.
- C. Homeowner Education Workshop #2 Planning – Deb mentioned that the date of the next homeowner education workshop will be October 21st. She has confirmed the presenter for the plaster repair workshop this fall. She will confirm the date and time with the presenter and report back to the board.
- D. Section 106 Review Correspondence for Indiana Avenue Project – David explained the project and discussed with the board the proposed street lighting that will be standard NIPSCO lighting poles. David mentioned that the HPC is welcome to discuss possible historic street lighting if they so choose. The board discussed the proposed changes and concur with the report. The board would like to look into potential options for historic street lighting. Deb will look up funding opportunities for street lighting and report back to the board. Sallie mentioned that it would be good for the board to draft a letter summary of the proposed changes for neighbors in the historic district.


HEARING OF VISITORS: Mark Kurth, President of Preserve Historic La Porte, questioned if there have been other alternatives explored for the trees along Indiana Avenue. David explained that the City has a Certified Arborist that inspected the trees earlier this year and thought through what needs to be done along with the Indiana Avenue project. The board discussed possibly exploring additional historic districts and sites in the city. Deb mentioned that it is part of the contract to do Commission education for historic districts.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: None.

There being no further discussion, Jeanne Rafaj made a motion to **adjourn the meeting** and the motion was seconded by Fonda Owens. The meeting adjourned at 6:34 PM.



Historic Preservation Commission Chair



Attest