



City of La Porte Historic Preservation Commission Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, July 18, 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 Tuesday, July 18, 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 5:30 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, Maggie Caviston, and Bruce Johnson (Advisory Member).

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jo Happel.

GUESTS PRESENT: Deb Parcell, Laura Konieczny, Bailey Hamilton, Peter Steele, and Mark Kurth.

MINUTES: Jeanne Rafaj made a motion to **approve the June 21, 2023 meeting minutes** and the motion was seconded by Maggie Caviston. The motion passed 5-0.

CORRESPONDENCE REPORTS (CLAIMS, COAs, Demolition Reports):

A. 1012 Monroe Street – Replace windows

Deb read the staff report. The following was noted:

Finding of Fact:

1) a. A window repair contractor has inspected the windows and found them to be less than 50% deteriorated.

b. Vinyl windows are not recommended in local historic districts.

c. Replacement windows, if determined necessary, should be wood, aluminum-clad wood, fiberglass, or composite, sized to exactly fit opening, in the same type, style, and placement within the wall.

2) Recommended motion:

a. Denial of vinyl windows.

b. If applicant is willing to consider other options, Commission could consider approval of:

i. hybrid approach to existing window repair (both contractor and owner working on windows), contractor trains owner to make repairs (charged on an hourly basis), or owner considers a less complete restoration (primarily restore functionality without full restoration).

ii. Replacement of existing windows with an approved window type as stated in the guidelines and repeated in item C above.

Bailey Hamilton, property owner, was present for the COA application to replace windows. The owner mentioned they had received quotes from various companies. One installs only vinyl. The other two far exceed the budget of the homeowner.

After discussion, which emphasized that the HPC is understanding of the need to maintain a budget, restore functionality to windows and retain the character of the property. Jeanne Rafaj made a motion to **deny 2023-COA-03 to replace windows** and the motion was seconded by Cassandra Redeagle. The motion passed 5-0.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: Cassandra Redeagle will distribute the HPC brochures to designated homeowners.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Coloring Book Fundraising – Bruce reported coloring book sponsors have been procured. The next step is to design the sponsor page and to get the coloring books printed for the year. He will work with the printer on the design.
- B. Sunflower Fair Booth Ideas – Jeanne is working on decorations and has gotten a set of chairs from the Civic Auditorium that can be used. It was mentioned to print a banner along with something vertical at the table such as balloons. Sallie has talked to the costume company.
- C. Homeowner Education Workshop #2 Planning – no report
- D. Section 106 Review Correspondence for Indiana Avenue Project –Sallie encouraged HPC members to attend a public meeting on the project being held on July 25th at the LPCPL Exchange.

HEARING OF VISITORS: None.

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