



**City of La Porte Historic Preservation Commission Meeting Minutes**

**Tuesday, June 18, 2024 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, June 18, 2024 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, April Hacker, and Bruce Johnson (Advisory Member)

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Peter Steele.

**GUESTS PRESENT:** David Heinold, Drew Buchanan, Deb Parcell, and Mark Kurth.

**MINUTES:** A motion was made by Fonda Owens to approve the May 21, 2024 meeting minutes and the motion was seconded by April Hacker. The motion passed 4-0.

**CORRESPONDENCE REPORTS (CLAIMS, COAs, Demolition Reports):**

A. Certificate of Appropriateness

- a. 1603 Michigan Avenue – Tuckpointing and minor brick replacement (**Staff Approval**)  
Deb Parcell explained the request for tuckpointing and minor brick replacement at 1603 Michigan Avenue that was approved by City staff.
- b. 1217 Michigan Avenue – Replacement of U-Shaped Walkway in front of house with same concrete stamp pattern  
Deb explained the staff report on the request to replace the U-Shaped Walkway in front of the house with the same concrete stamp pattern at 1217 Michigan Avenue. Jeanne Rafaj made a motion to **approve 2024-COA-08 for replacement of the U-Shaped Walkway in front of the house with the same concrete stamp pattern at 1217 Michigan Avenue** and the motion was seconded by Fonda Owens. The motion passed 4-0.

- c. 1217 Michigan Avenue – Deck removal, replacement with stamped concrete patio, and tree removal  
Deb explained the request to remove the existing deck, replace with stamped concrete patio, and tree removal was approved by City staff.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:** April reported that she would like to purchase the materials for the Sunflower Fair booth. She asked if the funds may be used from the HPC Restricted account to purchase the materials for the Sunflower Fair booth. David mentioned that it is appropriate to use the amount approved by the HPC board last month in the amount up to \$100 within the HPC Restricted account budget.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- A. Local Designation Plaques – Jeanne provided a copy of the example local designation plaque and mentioned the cost per plaque is \$128 that can be purchased by the local designation homeowners from the City HPC. Jeanne explained that she is asking the board members to create a plaque program that can be used as a system for identifying the local landmarks. Fonda mentioned that it would be best to create a format for applying to obtain a plaque from the City HPC that includes people writing a check to the City HPC and the board approves the wording and format of the plaques. Fonda mentioned that it would be good to make it part of the local designation application for interested homeowners. Jeanne mentioned that idea for the program would be to make it optional for homeowners to purchase a plaque from the City HPC. Deb will work on drafting an application packet for the local designation plaques for the HPC to review at the next meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- A. David reported that an application for Downtown Design Review was approved for replacement of the existing black canvas awning at 724 Lincolnway with a new black canvas awning that has an appropriate scale of signage for Blackrock Real Estate Services and Coulter Insurance Group that meets the zoning requirements.
- B. Jeanne reported that she attended the mural workshop for the proposed mural on the building near City Hall.

**HEARING OF VISITORS:** Bruce Johnson introduced Bob Sieko who is a middle school teacher who is interested in applying to place a state historical marker in Plaza 618 to commemorate the work of local Jiffy Pop inventor Frederick Mennen. Bob Sieko explained that he is working on a fundraiser with his class and have raised \$400 towards the purchase of state historical marker to commemorate the local Jiffy Pop inventor Frederick Mennen. He explained that they need to specify a location for the marker on the application to the Historic Society Board. They are looking at securing a location at Plaza 618 as the sign location for the state historical marker. The application deadline for submission is July 20<sup>th</sup>. Bruce explained that he went to the Board of Public Works and Safety to request use of Plaza 618 as a sign marker spot, but the board instructed him to consult with HPC on a recommendation for placement of the historical marker. April Hacker agreed that the location of Plaza 618 near the farmers market would be the ideal place for the historical marker about the local Jiffy Pop inventor. Drew Buchanan explained that he watched the Board of Public Works & Safety and thought the board didn't realize that Mr. Sieko was asking for permission to locate the historical marker at Plaza 618 if the State Historical Society deems the proposed sign of historical significance.

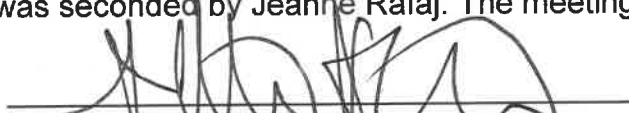
Sallie LaRocco made a motion to **favorably recommend to the Board of Public Works & Safety for placement of a historical marker to commemorate the work of local Jiffy Pop inventor Frederick Mennen at Plaza 618** and the motion was seconded by Jeanne Rafaj. The motion passed 4-0.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Deb announced to the board members to start thinking about hotel reservations early for the Preserving Historic Places Conference and CAMP workshop in Madison, Indiana. David mentioned that he will forward the information to the board for interested members to attend the conference and workshop with the two CLG scholarships available to the City of La Porte. Jeanne expressed interest in attending the conference and workshop this year.

Deb mentioned that there will be a windows 101 workshop hosted by the Michigan City HPC that will be taught by Adam Toering at the Michigan City Fire Department with a date to be determined. She mentioned that South Bend's historic Poledor House will be moved approximately two blocks to a new location. Deb explained that there will be one more HPC Roundtable Discussion at the Michigan City City Hall building on June 25<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm CT that will feature Creager Smith from Fort Wayne and a presentation on the de-designation process.

Deb provided an educational session for the HPC on Robert's Rules of Order.

There being no further discussion, a motion was made by April Hacker to adjourn and the motion was seconded by Jeanne Rafaj. The meeting adjourned at 6:26 PM.

  
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Historic Preservation Commission Chair

  
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Attest