City of La Porte Historic Preservation Commission Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, September 15, 2026 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, September 15, 2026 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.

The board recited the pledge of allegiance along with individuals in attendance.

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, Bruce Johnson, Mitchell Espinosa, Laura Riffel, Peter Steele, Christa Hurley-King, and Rachelle McCaulley.

MEMBERS ABSENT: None.

GUESTS PRESENT: David Heinold and Drew Buchanan.

MINUTES: A motion was made to **approve the July 21, 2026 meeting minutes** by Peter Steele and the motion was seconded by Fonda Owens. The motion passed 7-0.

CORRESPONDENCE REPORTS (CLAIMS, COAs, Demolition Reports):

a. 2026-COA-03 (102 1st Street – Staff Approval) – David explained that staff approved an emergency porch repair in accordance with the design guidelines with consultation from Indiana Landmarks.
b. 2026-COA-04 (1209 Michigan Avenue – Staff Approval) – David explained that staff approved replacement of the shingles in accordance with the design guidelines with consultation from Indiana Landmarks.
c. 2026-COA-05 (102 1st Street – Staff Approval) – David explained that staff approved the paint colors in accordance with the design guidelines with consultation from Indiana Landmarks.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: None.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Sunflower Fair – Christa discussed the plan for the booth.

B. Otocast app – Mitchell discussed the Otocast app is ready to go with the first five sites. They are working on the next group of historic sites. David will work on adding Otocast information to the website and send the information to the Communications Director for inclusion in the newsletter insert.

C. Coloring book fundraising – Bruce reported that he has collected additional sponsors due to cost of printing going up. He mentioned that there was a slight delay in distribution because of the derecho. Bruce mentioned that coloring books will be ready for distribution next month.

HEARING OF VISITORS: Drew explained that the City of La Porte Board of Zoning Appeals granted a variance for the property located at 1819 Michigan Avenue to allow 1,600 square feet of maximum accessory building area with conditions on September 9, 2026.
Drew explained that one of the conditions of approval is review and approval of the accessory building facade design by the HPC prior to issuance of a building permit.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: There was discussion about derecho storm damage to the locally designated homes.

Sallie mentioned that the Preserve Historic La Porte Candlight Tour will take place December 5-6. Peter mentioned that there all new homes on the tour and booklets are available for information.

There being no further discussion, a motion was made by Fonda Owens to adjourn and the motion was seconded by Laura Riffel. The meeting adjourned at 5:59 PM.

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Historic Preservation Commission Chair Attest