

**MINUTES
CITY OF ST. CHARLES
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2020
COMMITTEE ROOM**

Members Present: Kessler, Mann, Pretz, Norris, Krahenbuhl, Malay, Smunt

Members Absent: None

Also Present: Rachel Hitzemann, Planner

1. Call to order

Chairman Norris called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. Roll call

Ms. Hitzemann called roll with seven members present. There was a quorum.

3. Approval of Agenda

The following items were added under item 10.

- a. 1 S. 6th Ave.
- b. Elgin City Council

4. Presentation of minutes of the January 15th, 2010 meeting

A motion was made by Mr. Kessler and seconded by Ms. Malay with a unanimous voice vote to approve the minutes of the January 15th, 2019 meeting.

5. Landmark Applications

No items.

6. Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) applications

- a. 105 E. Main St.**

The proposal is for a new 6 ft. tall trash enclosure behind the Arcada Theatre. The Commissioners had questions regarding the materials, but the applicant was not present to provide further information.

A motion was made by Ms. Malay and seconded by Mr. Krahenbuhl with a unanimous voice vote to table the item.

b. 215 N. 3rd Ave.

The proposal is for the replacement of a back porch. This was discussed at a previous meeting and the Commission asked the applicant to return with scaled elevations. The applicant explained the current condition of the porch and the proposed changes. Two posts and two brackets will be retained, but everything else is rotted or inappropriate and needs to be replaced. Mr. Pretz noted the porch was not original to the house. The applicant stated she checked with the building department about having the height of the railing grandfathered in at the current height. The inspector advised it would be okay if the Commission agreed.

A motion was made by Ms. Malay and seconded by Mr. Kessler with a unanimous voice vote to approve the COA as presented and to allow the 36” height rail versus 42”.

7. Grant Applications

a. 1 Illinois St. (Eden on the River)

The applicant is seeking a façade improvement grant for work that was already approved by the Commission. The building sits on a corner and is visible from all elevations. The eligible grant amount depends on whether it is considered a rear improvement for \$10,000 or a front/side improvement for \$20,000. It could also be considered as both and the funds could be split as \$10,000 for each. The Commissioners discussed the visibility and access to the building and determined it was appropriate to consider it both.

A motion was made by Dr. Smunt and seconded by Mr. Krahenbuhl with a 6-1 voice vote to recommend to City Council approval of a Façade Improvement Grant for rear and side improvements to this restaurant’s location because it is going to enhance the public visibility and complimentary to the existing utilitarian industrial architecture. Ms. Mann opposed.

8. Other Commission Business

a. Pottawattamie Survey

Ms. Hitzemann advised both firms that are being considered for the survey are tentatively available to give a presentation at the next meeting. The Commissioners discussed having a workshop prior to the meeting. Ms. Hitzemann also said she contacted Elgin and Geneva for feedback on their past experiences with these firms and both had good things to say about them.

9. Preliminary Reviews-Open forum for questions or presentation of preliminary concepts to the Commission for feedback

No items.

10. Additional Business and Observations from Commissioners or Staff

a. 1 S. 6th Ave.

Mr. Pretz discussed the landmark application. He will be presenting a copy to the library for review at their next Board meeting.

b. Elgin City Council

Mr. Pretz presented two articles about how the Elgin City Council will landmark the David C. Cook building because they do not want the building to be torn down. They will be conducting a public hearing and having a final count in the coming months.

11. Meeting Announcements: Historic Preservation Commission meeting Wednesday, February 19th, 2020 at 7:00 P.M. in the Committee Room.

12. Public Comment

Mr. Kessler asked about the status of plaquing the library or portions of it. The Commissioners noted the entire site/block will be included.

Dr. Smunt provided an update on the historic house tour that he's involved with at the history museum. Three homeowners have committed to allowing interior tours of their homes. He said they will most likely need some help and will share further information as it becomes available.

13. Adjournment

With no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 7:48p.m.