

MINUTES
CITY OF ST. CHARLES
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2016
COMMITTEE ROOM

Members Present: Chairman Norris, Bobowiec, Gibson, Kessler, Smunt, Pretz,

Members Absent: Malay

Also Present: Russell Colby, Planning Division Manager

1. Call to order

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

2. Roll call

Mr. Colby called roll with six members present. There was a quorum.

3. Approval of agenda

Chairman Norris tabled Item 5.

4. Presentation of minutes of the November 2, 2016 meeting

A motion was made by Mr. Bobowiec and seconded by Mr. Pretz with a unanimous voice vote to approve the minutes as presented.

5. COA: 2 E. Main St. (sign)

Dr. Smunt requested a discussion on this item after it was tabled in Item 3. The Commissioners agreed to hold a brief discussion.

Dr. Smunt said the location for the proposed new sign currently contains a plaque that describes what was located on the original site. He noted the plans call for the plaque to be relocated in a flower bed to the east of its current location. He felt it would not get noticed there and suggested moving it to the west side of the building next to the informational kiosk to increase visibility. Mr. Pretz noted people are more likely to stop and look at the plaque if it were in front of the plaza versus in front of the parking lot.

Mr. Colby said he would provide this feedback to the Public Works Department.

A motion was made by Dr. Smunt and seconded by Mr. Pretz with a unanimous voice vote to table the discussion on the COA.

6. COA: 122 W. Main St. (storefront improvement)

Randy Jostes, the petitioner, was present.

Mr. Jostes reviewed the plans for the storefront. While doing demolition for the business next door, they discovered divided light windows that matched their front entryway. They are planning on using these windows on the south and west ends of the building to create a bookend look. He noted this will also help to differentiate the two businesses located in this building. The plan is to use clear glass on the other existing window openings.

The signage will consist of individually cut letters that spell out Stanbridge Master Saddlers. The letters will be mounted directly onto the existing backing material and will be lit from above with gooseneck barn lighting.

Paneling made out of man-made wood will replace the brick that was removed, and wainscoting, which is already in place in the entryway, will be extended around to cover the entire granite base. He noted there was nothing behind the granite that was worth preserving.

Dr. Smunt suggested using the divided light windows along the entire storefront. Mr. Jostes felt that look was a bit overwhelming.

Dr. Smunt stated the drawings effectively tied everything together.

A motion was made by Mr. Bobowiec and seconded by Mr. Pretz with a unanimous voice vote to approve the COA as presented. Mr. Kessler recused himself.

7. Additional Business or Observations from Commissioners or Staff

The members welcomed Phil Kessler to the Commission.

Mr. Pretz noted the owners of 304 Cedar Ave. followed the Commission's recommendations and changed the door that was discussed at a previous meeting. He also said the Pottawatomie Garden Club is allocating funds to provide plants and bushes at the Jones Law Office location.

Mr. Gibson expressed concern over the bright pink shades across the top exterior windows of the building on the NE corner of 3rd St. and Rte. 64. Dr. Smunt said those have been there for awhile.

a. Pottawatomie area tour and survey discussion

Mr. Colby said he has been working on confirming a date for the tour. The plan is to hold the tour during the month of May. He will follow-up on this after the start of the new year.

Mr. Gibson noted the History Museum will be doing trolley tours the weekend of April 22nd. Mr. Pretz asked if they could tie the two tours together to help share the cost of the trolley. If

there is a minimum rental period and the museum is only using it for a portion of that time, he thought perhaps the Commission could use the trolley for the remainder of the time. Mr. Gibson said he will follow-up with the museum to see if this is a possibility.

b. Residential Design Guidelines update – Ch. 2.1

Mr. Colby reviewed the updates that have been made to the Guidelines based upon feedback from the last meeting. Dr. Smunt asked if they could add pictures related to the text on page 23 to avoid excess white space.

The Commission agreed to deviate from the recommended/not recommended format. Mr. Gibson said it isn't necessary to have the pictures match the nearest paragraph.

Mr. Gibson asked if the “Recommended New Construction” material should be in its own section. Dr. Smunt stated the entire Chapter 2.1 is on neighborhood streetscapes and this shows how traditional structures fit the streetscape in a historic district better than ultra-modern, contemporary structures do. Dr. Smunt said the new Field Guide to American Houses has a section on modern homes, and he suggested using some of the same terminology as to what to do and what not to do. He also noted changing the title to “Recommended New Construction in Older, Traditional Neighborhoods” might help define the topic better.

c. Façade Program Amendments / Residential Historic Rehab Grant

There were no items to be discussed regarding these topics.

d. Discussion regarding potential Millington Historic District

Dr. Smunt advised he contacted the 4th Ward aldermen and will be meeting with them to discuss the potential of having a new historic district within their ward.

Mr. Pretz asked how many homes would potentially be in the new district. Dr. Smunt suggested reviewing the survey map to determine how many significant structures exist in this area. He outlined a general boundary for staff to begin researching the number of homes that might be included.

Mr. Colby said he will work on putting together a map showing landmarked, contributing, and significant structures within the potential district for Dr. Smunt to use at his meeting with the aldermen.

e. Press Releases for New Landmarks

Mr. Pretz felt the City should issue a press release when a home receives landmark status as a way to generate interest in the community and encourage other homeowners to pursue the same for their home.

Dr. Smunt suggested using *The Den*, the *Daily Herald*, and the *Kane County Chronicle*. Mr. Bobowiec wanted to know how many people subscribe to *The Den* newsletter to determine if it would be a viable marketing tool.

Mr. Gibson suggested having several press releases ready to go and issuing one every few months. Mr. Pretz said to include the total number of structures landmarked in each release and a link that says “to view the others, follow this link”.

8. Meeting Announcements: Historic Preservation Commission meeting Wednesday, December 7, 2016 at 7:00 P.M. in the Committee Room.

9. Public Comment

10. Adjournment

With no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 8:16 p.m.