

**MINUTES
CITY OF ST. CHARLES
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
WEDNESDAY, JULY 17, 2013
COUNCIL COMMITTEE ROOM**

Members Present: Chairman Smunt, Bobowiec, Prestidge, Pretz, Withey (7:10)

Members Absent: Weals, Norris

Also Present: Russell Colby, Planning Division Manager

1. Call to order:

Chairman Smunt called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

2. Roll call:

Chairman Smunt called roll with five members present. There was a quorum.

3. Approval of the agenda:

There were no changes.

4. Presentation of minutes from June 5, 2013 and June 19, 2013 meetings:

A motion was made by Mr. Bobowiec and seconded by Mr. Prestidge with a unanimous voice vote to approve the June 19, 2013 minutes as presented. No motion was made on the June 5, 2013 minutes.

5. COA: 1 E. Main St. (accessibility ramp)

Mr. Colby stated the Commission reviewed this proposal for an accessibility ramp at a previous meeting and requested the applicant revise the handrail design to something that is more sympathetic to the existing handrail system.

Doug Gilbert, architect for the project, showed pictures indicating that the handrail design will match the existing handrails on the entry stairs. Chairman Smunt noted this matches the International Style of the building.

A motion was made by Mr. Bobowiec and seconded by Mr. Prestidge with a unanimous voice vote to approve the COA.

6. COA: 404 N. 5th Ave. (addition)

John Hunecke, applicant, was present. He stated this request is for the addition, which is very similar to what the Commission reviewed when he appeared for a recommendation on the setback variance.

Chairman Smunt asked questions regarding the details for materials. Mr. Hunecke summarized the following: existing clapboard siding will be repaired where possible; smooth fiber cement siding with the same design and reveal will be used on the addition; trim and casings will be wood to match existing; beadboard soffit with a crown fascia will be used to match existing; shingle siding may be used in the hood sections; all windows will be inset replacements, except for a window on the south elevations that must be enlarged for egress requirements.

The Commission expressed support for the project.

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

7. COA: 2 E. Main St., Municipal Center (lighting)

Peter Suhr, Assistant Director of Public Works for the City, stated that as a part of the ongoing Municipal Center renovations, parts of the existing exterior lighting system were being removed with the roof work, and some components were planned to be replaced. The City is now considering switching to a different lighting scheme that is more historically accurate and would use modern LED fixtures.

Shanna Olson, lighting designer from KJWW, presented information on the proposed lighting scheme. She displayed historic images of the Municipal Center and tower showing the original lighting scheme, which included lighting to accent architectural details and lighting under the canopy. She reviewed the proposal for each section of the building. The existing dome light would remain. On the tower, linear LED fixtures would light the clock portion of the tower. Directional LED spot lights would light the recesses in the tower and the recesses on the Main St. elevation. Hidden linear LED lighting would light underneath the canopy and along the northern portion of the east wall past the canopy.

Mr. Pretz asked when the historic pictures date from. Mr. Suhr indicated that the images are from not long after the building was constructed, probably the 1940s. He said the flood light scheme used now replaced the old lighting system in the 1990s.

Mr. Bobowiec asked about the dome light in the tower, which used to change colors. Mr. Suhr said this fixture is not part of the proposal; however he thought the light was replaced last year with a white colored light, as the mechanical equipment had deteriorated and was no longer

functional. Mr. Bobowiec suggested that if we are planning to restore the building to the original design, such as was done on the plaza, we should consider the dome light also. Mr. Suhr said this could be noted for a future project. (It was determined after the meeting that the dome light is functional and continues changing colors.)

The Commission asked about the tone of the light. Ms. Olson said the tone of LED varies widely from a bright purplish white to an amber color. They are intending to use LEDs with a lumen level that is a pure white color.

The Commission expressed support for the proposal but would like to see samples of the LED fixtures in use on the building. The Commission discussed scheduling a special meeting at night to see a test of the lights, and the Commission could then approve the COA at that time. Mr. Suhr stated he would work on scheduling this.

A motion was made by Mr. Bobowiec and seconded by Mr. Pretz with a unanimous voice vote to table the COA.

8. Façade Improvement Grant: 221 W. Main St. and 5 S. 2nd Ave./119 E. Main St.

There was no new information on this item.

A motion was made by Mr. Bobowiec and seconded by Mr. Pretz with a unanimous voice vote to table the Façade Improvement Grant.

9. Additional Business

There was none.

10. Announcements: Historic Preservation Commission meeting Wednesday, August 7, 2013 at 7:00pm in the Committee Room.

11. Adjournment:

With no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 7:33 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Dr. Steven Smunt, Chairman
St. Charles Historic Preservation Commission