

Rockford Historic Preservation Commission

December 1, 2015 – 5:30 PM – City Hall Council Chambers

Present: Dave Coady Gary Carlson, Vickie Krueger, Robert McCarthy, Matthew Wolf, Jeffrey Kirk

Absent: Alderman Karen Elyea,

Staff: Andrew Pieri

Other: Interested Parties

Meeting was called to order at 5:45 PM by Dave Coady

Roll Call and Determination of Quorum:

6 members present and 1 are absent – Quorum.

Public Hearing:

Landmark Application – 524 Kent and 1005 South Court (Local Landmark)

A public hearing was held to discuss an application for a landmark designation for the Booker Washington Center located at 524 Kent and 1005 South Court. Booker Washington Center Executive Director Jessica Bates and various members of the community spoke in favor of granting local landmark status.

Matthew Wolf made a **MOTION** to **ADJOURN THE PUBLIC HEARING**. The **MOTION** was **SECONDED** by Vickie Krueger and **CARRIED** by a vote of **6-0**.

Approval of Minutes:

N/A

Unfinished Business:

Landmark Application – 524 Kent and 1005 South Court (Local Landmark)

Staff informed the public and commission that due to a procedural error, the Historic Preservation Commission would be discussing the previously approved application for the Booker Washington Center. Staff informed the Commission that it would be necessary to re-vote on the issue again before it could be sent to City Council for final action.

Mr. Carlson again voice opposition stating that not much of the actual structure still exists and did not think that the designation met the criteria for landmark designation. Further, he encouraged the applicant to pursue a historic marker from the *Illinois State Historical Society* as a better way to identify the location.

Councilwoman Linda McNeely was criticized Mr. Carlson's actions in attempting to dissuade The Center from seeking the Historic designation. Ms. McNeely voiced her support for the approval of the designation.

Member McCarthy informed the Commissions that he closely reviewed the Historic Preservation ordinance and determined that the application as presented was problematic and suggested that the applicant should consider re-submitting the application to correct technical errors. Mr. McCarthy further stated that though the errors exist, he was comfortable supporting approval based on his thought that the actual site was historically significant and not necessarily the structure itself.

A **MOTION** was made by Jeffrey Kirk to support acceptance of this application. The **MOTION** was **SECONDED** by Matthew Wolf. The item was **APPROVED** by a vote of 5-1. Member Carlson was the only dissenting vote.

New Business:

N/A

Landmark Application – 524 Kent and 1005 South Court (Local Landmark)

Communication and staff report:

N/A

Adjournment:

With no other business Matthew Wolf made a **MOTION** to **ADJOURN**. The **MOTION** was **SECONDED** by Robert McCarthy and **CARRIED** by a vote of **6-0**.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 P.M.

Submitted by Andrew Pieri – Historic Preservation Commission Secretary