

Rockford Historic Preservation Commission

September 9, 2014 – 6:00PM – City Hall Conference Room B

Present: Ald. Thomas McNamara, Janna Bailey, Gary Carlson, Becky Lichty, Dave Coady, Scott Sanders, Vickie Krueger

Absent: None

Staff: Andrew Pieri, Jeremy Carter, Tim Hinkens

Other: Bill Vance, Scott Johnson, Robert McCarthy, Judi McCarthy, Sandy Tower

Meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Scott Sanders, Chairman

Roll Call and Determination of Quorum

All members present

Public Hearing

None at this meeting

Approval of Minutes

A **MOTION** was made by Janna Bailey to **APPROVE** the minutes of the August 12, 2014 meeting as presented. The **MOTION** was **SECONDED** by Gary Carlson and **CARRIED** by a vote of **7-0**

Unfinished Business

None

New Business

Request for Opinion – 7th street Lighting Project

City Traffic Engineer Jeremy Carter made a presentation on behalf of the City of Rockford for renovation of 7th Street to repair sidewalks and install decorative lighting. Chairman Sanders inquired as to the size of the brick that would be used on the sidewalk and cross walk areas. Mr. Carter stated that the brick would be similar to other projects found throughout the downtown area. Ms. Lichty, referring to the submitted drawings, asked about the differences in stoplight design in this area and would it match the surrounding areas to which Mr. Carter said that the same stop light poles would be used. Chairman Sanders then asked about the emblems shown on the plans identifying the district on the light poles. Mr. Carter commented that those would be part of the design to better identify this district. Mr. Carlson then followed up with a questions about bump-outs to reduce the size of the crosswalks and if those were part of this design. Mr. Carter replied that bump-outs will be included in an effort to reduce the crosswalk size and to also help reduce the speed of vehicles driving down 7th street. Ms. Lichty asked Mr. Carter about handicapped accessibility for those in wheelchairs. Tim Hinkens replied for Mr. Carter that curb indentations would be provided for those in wheelchairs.

With no other questions, Chairman Sanders asked for a motion to draft a letter in support of this project to be sent to the State of Illinois to satisfy the request for opinion. Gary Carlson made a **MOTION** to **APPROVE** the request of opinion. The **MOTION** was **SECONDED** by Janna Bailey and **CARRIED** by a vote of **7-0**

Certificate of Appropriateness for 118 North Main Street – Exterior Alterations

Bill Vance of Creative Plastering made a presentation on behalf of the Rockford Public Library. Mr. Vance was contracted to install a colored dryvit band over the top of the “S.H. KRESS CO.” lettering on the east face of the building. Mr. Carlson asked why this was needed to be done. Mr. Vance stated that this was for decorative purposes only and that the dryvit would not damage the existing stone façade but only cover it. Mr. Vance stated that the dryvit could always be removed at a later time. A discussion among committee members ensued as to possible damage to the structure and how covering the sign diminished the buildings historic character. Alderman McNamara asked staff if there was any correspondence from the library regarding this matter. Staff had no contact with the library. Alderman McNamara suggested that someone from the library should have been here to make to presentation instead of the contractor. Alderman McNamara made a **MOTION to HOLD OVER** until the next meeting so someone from the library could be notified to attend the meeting. The **MOTION** was seconded by Janna Bailey and **CARRIED** by a vote of **7-0**.

Certificate of Appropriateness for 1900 North Rockton Ave – Exterior Window Replacement

Scott Johnson made a presentation on behalf of Rockford Public Schools for window replacement at the West Middle School campus. He stated that this project was almost identical to the project at Lincoln Middle School on Charles Street that was presented at the Historic Preservation Commission meeting in July, 2014.

Alderman McNamara made a **MOTION to APPROVE** the Certificate of Appropriateness Application. The **MOTION** was **SECONDED** by Dave Coady and **CARRIED** by a vote of **7-0**.

Certificate of Appropriateness for 1408 Cospers Avenue – Exterior Renovations

Mr. Robert McCarthy and Mrs. Judi McCarthy presented lengthy plans for multiple renovations to their home located at 1408 Cospers Ave. Amr McCarthy stated that he was seeking (5) COA's for his property.

The first COA application was to rebuild the chimney of his single-family Gary Carlson made a **MOTION to APPROVE** the Certificate of Appropriateness Application. The **MOTION** was **SECONDED** by Becky Lichty and **CARRIED** by a vote of **7-0**.

The second COA application was for rebuilding the porch on his single-family home. Gary Carlson made a **MOTION to APPROVE** the Certificate of Appropriateness Application. The **MOTION** was **SECONDED** by Becky Lichty and **CARRIED** by a vote of **7-0**.

The third COA application was for roof replacement on his single-family home. Vickie Krueger made a **MOTION to APPROVE** the Certificate of Appropriateness Application. The **MOTION** was **SECONDED** by Dave Coady and **CARRIED** by a vote of **7-0**.

The forth COA application was for siding on a detached garage. Becky Lichty made a **MOTION to APPROVE** the Certificate of Appropriateness Application. The **MOTION** was **SECONDED** by Thomas McNamara and **CARRIED** by a vote of **7-0**.

The fifth COA application was for siding repairs on his single-family home. Thomas McNamara made a **MOTION to APPROVE** the Certificate of Appropriateness Application. The **MOTION** was **SECONDED** by Janna Bailey and **CARRIED** by a vote of **7-0**.

Public Comment

Sandy Tower approached the Commission seeking feedback on the feasibility of obtaining historic designation for the Briggs Mansion located at 1244 East State Street. Ms. Tower informed the Commission that she is a realtor and is currently listing the property and wondered if a historic designation would be helpful in marketing the property. Gary Carlson provided details on the process for Ms. Tower.

Communication and staff report

None

Adjournment

With no other business made a **MOTION** to **ADJOURN** was made by Gary Carlson. The **MOTION** was **SECONDED** by Becky Lichty and **CARRIED** by a vote of **7-0**.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 P.M.

Submitted by Andrew Pieri – Historic Preservation Commission Secretary