

Rockford Historic Preservation Commission

May 4, 2010 – 6:00 PM
Conference Room B
Rockford City Hall

Present: Maureen Flanagan, Mark McInnis, Doug Mark, David Hagney, Janna Bailey, Vickie Krueger, Scott Sanders

Staff: Ginny Gregory

Others: Chuck Prorok

NEW BUSINESS

Minutes

Janna Bailey made a **MOTION** to approve minutes as submitted for meetings held on April 6 and April 13, 2010. The motion was seconded by David Hagney.

Mark McInnis asked that minutes for April 6th be amended to show that he asked if a smaller area could be fenced at 1020 North Second Street, not if a smaller fence could be used.

Mark McInnis made a **MOTION** to approve both sets of minutes, with the above change to minutes for April 6th. The motion was seconded by Vickie Krueger and **APPROVED** by a vote of 6-0.

Certificate of Appropriateness – 1515 Greenmount Street

Mr. Prorok responded to questions concerning his application to replace particle board siding on an existing garden shed with aluminum siding, and to install a new overhead door on the shed. Ald. Mark entered the meeting as the discussion began.

Maureen asked what kind of door they planned to use. Mr. Prorok indicated it would be either wood or aluminum, and that it would be paneled. There would be no vehicular access to the shed.

General discussion followed on whether or not aluminum siding would be an appropriate material to use on this shed. Guidelines are somewhat vague, stating that “materials should be similar to those of the primary dwelling.” However, the house is brick which is not normally used for accessory structures. David asked Mr. Prorok if he would be willing to use cement board siding instead of aluminum. He indicated he would be willing to consider it, depending on cost. The suggestion was made that a Certificate be approved for cement board siding; if that turns out to be acceptable, then Mr. Prorok would not have to return to the Commission for another meeting. If it turns out not to be acceptable, then he would come back for another option.

David Hagney made a **MOTION** to *deny* the application to install aluminum siding on the garden shed at 1515 Greenmount Street because it is an inappropriate material for the period of the house, but to *approve* installation of cement board lap siding on the shed, using the same exposure as existing. The motion was seconded by Scott Sanders and **APPROVED** by a vote of 7-0.

No Certificate is needed for the overhead door as it is not visible from a public right-of-way.

Certificate of Appropriateness – 1725 Arlington Avenue

Ginny indicated that she had received an application for a Certificate solely for painting the house. Once she had determined that the house is not masonry, she informed the owners that they would not need a Certificate, although the Commission is willing to provide advice on colors when asked.

The owner then asked about taking down a large dead tree that may be in the right-of-way. Ginny advised them to contact the City Forester, and that he would need to provide verification to the Commission that the tree is not a healthy one before taking it down.

OLD BUSINESS

Update on Violations – 400 Block, Kishwaukee Street

Ginny stated that the properties have been sold to new owners. She has not had a chance to contact them yet but would do so in the next week. So far as she knows, the fine levied by the Code Hearing Officer against the properties under the previous owners is still outstanding. She will send information to the new owners on changes that still need to be made to the properties under HPC rules – relating primarily to porches, railings and foundations – and ask that they attend the June meeting so these things can be addressed. Should they fail to attend, then additional action would have to be taken.

STAFF REPORT

Update on Design Guidelines Review

Ginny indicated that she is slowly making progress in going through past HPC actions and relating them to whichever guidelines were in place at the time. She distributed copies of what she has done to this point and asked Commission members to let her know if what she has done is helpful in assessing current guidelines, or if something further needs to be included. She also stated that she had copies of guidelines from other cities if any members would like to look at those for comparison, and referred them to the NAPC website where guidelines are posted from across the country.

With no further business to conduct, Doug Mark made a **MOTION** to adjourn. Mark McInnis seconded the motion, which was **APPROVED** by a vote of 7-0. The meeting adjourned at 6:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Ginny Gregory, Secretary
Rockford Historic Preservation Commission