

Rockford Historic Preservation Commission

August 17, 2005

6:00 PM

Rockford City Hall, Conference Room B

MEMBERS PRESENT: Alderman Doug Mark, Valerie Olafson, Frank St. Angel

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jeanne Ludeke, Laura Bachelder, Sally Faber, Scott Sanders

STAFF: Ginny Gregory, Christine Sledge

OTHERS: Luis Villegas – 417 South 2nd Street; Philip & Susan Friske – 922 C Street

There was not a quorum for the meeting. Ginny suggested that the applicants explain what they want to do so if there are any questions from HPC members they can be covered tonight. Then a special meeting can be called in the next week to ten days where action can be taken without the need for the applicants to attend that second meeting, although they certainly could if they wanted to. Commission members agreed to this approach.

CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS

◆ 417 South 2nd Street

Val asked Mr. Villegas if he was replacing an existing fence. Luis answered that yes, he was replacing a current fence. Frank asked if the new fence was wood. Luis replied that he put up a new wood fence. He did not know he needed to obtain new fence permit or Certificate of Appropriateness. Val asked if HPC approved a picket fence before. Luis said yes. Val said that the fence he put up is different than a picket fence and that in that neighborhood the prevailing style of fences is picket and that the pickets should all be the same size. Frank said the space should equal the width of the board and asked if the fence had pickets on both sides. Luis said that it does. Val said that HPC prefers that the picket style be all even instead of alternating on each side, that all the boards be along the same side. Ald. Doug Mark explained to Luis by showing him the picture of the fence that the pickets need to be on the outside and not the inside. Val said that the pickets needed to be moved to the outside and evenly spaced.

Ginny informed Luis that she'd try to have HPC meet next week and vote and that they would inform him of the decision by letter.

Luis asked if he could replace one door for the basement. He explained that he did not like the current door (hurricane). He would like to rebuild and put in a different kind of roof over it. Val said that it would have to match the existing roof.

In view of the difficulty HPC members were having in understanding exactly what Mr. Villegas wanted to do, Ginny said she will take pictures of roof/door on 8-18-05 with a digital camera and e-mail the photos to HPC members. Luis asked if he would need another application and the answer was no, not for the fence, that he would be notified by mail.

◆ **922 C Street**

Susan Friske passed out pictures of the front of their house. HPC members reviewed the application and looked at the proposed layout of fencing. Val said they would like to continue the ornamental fencing to the public right-a-way, which would be Cosper. Val said that would be the alteration just where there is one section of chain-link. Val said that the ornamental would need to go all the way to the lot-line so what would be seen on both street views would be the ornamental rather than the chain-link. Philip mentioned that they were concerned about the cost and they had already had a couple of bids. Frank asked what about swapping out a section. Susan said that there are three lots and the back lot and there are hills that go down to it and that is where the ornamentals stop on each side of the property. Val referred to the HPC guidelines (pg. 11) that state the following:

Chain link, louver, split rails, concrete block, basket weave, horizontal board, stockade and shadowbox design fences are generally not acceptable within historic districts or on landmark sites where the fence would be visible from a public right-of-way. Where chain link is allowed, it should be either painted or vinyl coated in dark brown, dark green or black.

Frank asked if there was any fencing up now and Philip said no. Val said taking the ornamental from the one side and moving it would help cut the cost and then it would be just the continuation. She pointed out that the guidelines do not permit chain-link in rights-of-way. Frank said that the regulations state the same regarding ornamentals. Susan mentioned that 12 feet of the fence is gate. Val said that HPC unfortunately can not just go by cost but must follow regulations. Val said if HPC allowed it then it would be setting a dangerous precedent; by allowing the Friskes to put in chain-link, then everyone else would want to do it. Ginny said that chain-links were only allowed in the past in the back of properties. Susan asked if they would have to come back if they upgrade the back of the property from chain-link to ornamental. Philip said that they were going to talk to the neighbor about changing the chain-link fence to ornamental and about splitting the cost of the upgrade. Val said that she that HPC could stipulate where the ornamental would have to be and where we would allow the chain-links; however, if the Friskes want to go from chain-link to ornamental, HPC would have no problem. Frank asked if they planned on going through the gates a lot in the back; if not, they might want to look into getting a removable fence section. Susan asked that if they took the ornamental all the way down to Prospect, everything else is fine. Ald. Mark said that basically wherever the chain-link fence is, it could be replaced with the ornamentals.

Respectfully Submitted,

Christine Sledge
Senior Clerk