

Rockford Historic Preservation Commission

July 11, 2006 - 6:00 PM
Conference Room B
Rockford City Hall

MEMBERS PRESENT Frank St. Angel, Laura Bachelder, Jeanne Ludeke, Maureen Flanagan, Sally Faber, Alderman Doug Mark (arrived 6:35)

MEMBERS ABSENT None

STAFF Ginny Gregory, Sandra Hawthorne

OTHERS None

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 PM by Chairman Frank St. Angel

NEW BUSINESS

Minutes for March 14 and June 13, 2006

A **MOTION** was made by Sally Faber to **APPROVE** the minutes for the meetings of March 14th and June 13th. The Motion was seconded by Maureen Flanagan and **CARRIED** by a vote of 5-0.

Certificates of Appropriateness

♦ **426 South First Street**

Neither the owner nor his contractor was present. A written description of the proposed work was not provided in the application, but drawings of the steps, porch and railing were provided. The Commission felt that the design presented did not fit in with the era of the home. They were also unclear as to the extent of work being proposed for the front porch. Without anyone present to answer questions, the Commission voted to lay over this item until more information is provided.

A **MOTION** was made by Jeanne Ludeke to **LAY OVER** the request for work on the porch, steps and railing at 426 South First Street. The Motion was seconded by Laura Bachelder and **CARRIED** by a vote of 5-0.

♦ **816 Brown Hills Court**

The applicant was not present. The application is for a satellite dish to be installed within a landscaped area on the north side of the home, adjacent to the end of the driveway. The application stated this was the only area on the property that would allow for reception due to the amount of trees on the property. In a conversation with Ginny Gregory, the Applicant stated his willingness to abide by whatever landscaping the Commission felt was necessary to camouflage the dish. The Commission agreed the satellite is not a permanent structure and could be hidden by landscaping.

A **MOTION** was made by Jeanne Ludeke to **APPROVE** the application for a satellite dish to be installed on the north side of the property as shown in the diagrams provided with the application. The Motion was seconded by Laura Bachelder and **CARRIED** by a vote of 5-0. Approval was made subject to the stipulation that a landscaping plan be submitted for review and approval by the Commission's landscape architect with the landscaping designed so as to shelter the satellite dish from view from any public street.

Request for opinion on landmark eligibility of 1617 South Fifth Street

Ginny indicated she had talked with John D. Anderson, a trustee of the Alfred & Ella Peterson Anderson Family Foundation, about the possibility of designating the Anderson home at 1617 South Fifth Street a local landmark. She suggested to him that he send some basic information on the house, with photos, for the Commission review for the purpose of giving him a preliminary opinion as to whether or not this would be worth pursuing. Mr. Anderson responded by sending the letter and photos the Commission was reviewing at this meeting.

Ginny continued, saying that when she checked County records, she discovered that the Andersons do not own this property, someone else who is an owner-occupant does. The Andersons may be in the process of buying the house, but he did not mention that in the letter. In looking at the landmark criteria that Mr. Anderson referred to in his letter, Ginny did not feel that the case had been made for designating this house. He mentioned several criteria, but the significance of this property under any of them is not really clear. In response to a question, she said that when an application for landmark designation is received, the owner is notified within three business days. In addition, because of a recent amendment to the ordinance, if the owner objects, a super majority is required for City Council to approve a designation. Commission members were not comfortable with pursuing this designation without more information about the house, especially any connection it may have had with P A Peterson, and information on whether or not the Andersons intend to buy the house.

Based on the discussion, Ginny stated she would contact Mr. Anderson and explain the Commission's reluctance in this case, and ask if he wants to pursue designation with additional information.

Violation notices

- ◆ **303 Kishwaukee Street** – An existing dumpster without fencing; referred to Neighborhood Standards on June 21st.
- ◆ **318 South Second Street** – A section of roof is in disrepair and has had a blue tarp on the roof for years; referred to Property Standards in the Building Department, June 20th.
- ◆ **612 Oak Street** – This house has been in disrepair for several years; referred to Property Standards on June 20th.
- ◆ **304 & 308 South 3rd Street** – Porches have been missing railings for 18 months, porch roof is held up with 2 x 4s; referred to Property Standards on June 14th.
- ◆ **315 South 3rd Street** – Owner has installed a concrete pad in back with a hot tub on it in a location that is visible from the street. There is no fencing around the tub. Ginny sent a letter to the owner on June 14th notifying him of the violation based on an earlier complaint.
- ◆ **517 Oak Street** – Original complaint was about the poor condition of the porch. Work has been in progress on this house, but has slowed down. The work that has been done on the porch is of good quality.

Section 106 review of telecommunications installations – 321 West State Street

(Ald. Doug Mark arrived at this point)

Ginny explained that because telecommunication towers require federal licenses, they are required to go through what's called the Section 106 review process for impact on historic properties. While the Talcott Building has never been officially designated at either the local or

National Register level, it was deemed likely to be eligible for the Register in the 1994 survey done by HPC. She received a packet from the consulting firm handling this particular installation with photos that show existing and proposed towers. Because of the way they were done, it was difficult to tell the difference between existing towers and those proposed.

Ald. Mark asked how the existing towers came into being if they had not come before the Commission for review. Ginny responded that the company/owner installing the tower would be responsible for notifying the Commission, but this is not always done. Ald. Mark felt the responsible parties should be informed that these towers do have an impact on a historic area and also make them aware that the Historic Preservation Commission needs an opportunity to review all such plans. He also suggested that City Council be asked to determine guidelines for installing antennas on rooftops. Ginny will check with Atty. John Gilliberti on this.

Following further discussion, the Commission's general consensus was that it would be preferable to back these antennas as far away from the edge of the roof as possible.

OLD BUSINESS

Certificates of Appropriateness

Ginny stated that she had listed these three properties on the agenda in case the owners followed up on applications submitted for the June meeting but with some elements not acted on in case they chose to attend this meeting. None did, although Chandler Anderson did indicate that he will be at the August meeting for 310 South First Street.

STAFF REPORT

Nothing to report

OTHER

National Trust for Historic Preservation – Annual Conference

The conference will be held October 31st through November 5th in Pittsburgh. Ginny is not planning to attend but distributed copies of the program to interested members.

With no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 6:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Sandra A. Hawthorne
Sr. Administrative Assistant