

Rockford Historic Preservation Commission

April 5, 2007 - 6:00 PM

Conference Room B

Rockford City Hall

Present: Laura Bachelder, Maureen Flanagan, David Hagney, Ald. Doug Mark, Mark McInnis, Mike Pauly

Absent : Sally Faber

Staff : Ginny Gregory

Others: Gary & Carol Anderson; Steve Wanninger

PUBLIC HEARING

Nomination of the West Downtown Historic District to the National Register of Historic Places

Laura Bachelder called the public hearing to order. Gary Anderson, a River District Board Member, explained that the West Downtown Historic District is being nominated for the National Register of Historic Places under the 'A' and 'C' categories. There are 44 properties in the district including 3 non-contributing and 41 contributing structures that were built from 1856 up to the 1920s. He explained that there are a variety of architectural styles and types of buildings included. The proposed district includes several examples of significant architecture, most of it from before the Depression.

Ginny advised that IHPA sent letters to property owners within the area informing them of the nomination, and giving her as a contact if they had any questions. She noted that she has received several phone calls from people who were curious but has not received any objections. There were no objectors present at the hearing.

The public hearing was closed at 6:15 PM.

NEW BUSINESS

Approval of Minutes

Mike Pauly made a **MOTION** to **APPROVE** the minutes for the meeting of March 20, 2007 as submitted. The motion was seconded by Doug Mark and **CARRIED** by a vote of **6-0**.

West Downtown Historic District

Ald. Doug Mark made a **MOTION** to **RECOMMEND** to the State of Illinois that the West Downtown Historic District be placed on the National Register of Historic Places based upon findings from the nomination form that include but are not limited to the following:

- ◆ The architectural significance of the buildings which were built between 1856 and the 1920s.
- ◆ The architects that built the buildings have had a significant impact on the world of architecture.
- ◆ The district historically represents the economics of the area.
- ◆ The West Downtown Rockford Historic District exemplifies the physical appearance and presence of an important mid-twentieth century urban downtown.

The **MOTION** was seconded by Maureen Flanagan and **CARRIED** by a vote of **6-0**.

Restoration, Preservation and Re-introduction of Rockford's Brick Streets

Mr. Steve Wanninger addressed the Commission regarding his desire to start a committee to promote the restoration and/or preservation of the City's brick streets. He explained that there are still two brick streets in Edgewater along with Latham, Green and possibly a couple others. He shared articles from the Chicago *Tribune* regarding a project that was completed on the brick streets in Wilmette, IL. One problem with brick streets is the dips found in them. Another problem is the patching of brick streets with asphalt. It was agreed that both of these situations are correctable. It was noted that it is much more expensive initially to restore a street in brick but that maintenance is not expected to be necessary for up to 40 years which may be less expensive overall.

He asked if it would be possible to nominate a street for Historical Preservation for re-paving. The Commission agreed that it is possible through the Local Historical Preservation Commission although it is unclear exactly how it would be done. It was agreed that the next steps should be to continue to gather information and to discuss the issue with the Public Works Department.

Violation Procedures

Ginny advised the Commission that she has inquired about the possibility of using an Administrative Code Hearing officer as the initial step for HPC violations instead of taking violation cases to Circuit Court. This process is much simpler and faster than the procedures necessary for Circuit Court. It would enable the Commission to pursue violations in a timely manner and reduce the "idle threat" belief that presently exists. She will continue to work with the Legal Department on this issue.

OLD BUSINESS

Satellite Dishes

Ginny gave everyone a copy of proposed modifications to HPC's Design Guidelines for review. She noted that she is waiting for a response regarding the acceptability of limiting the number of dishes per dwelling unit. She advised she has not been able to locate a neutral party to determine what effect location has on the reception from the dishes, but she did check several web sites and they all agreed that trees and buildings cannot be between the dish and the satellite. She also advised that the Building Department is not willing to require permits.

The Commission decided to wait for a response from the Legal Department before adopting these guidelines. It was agreed that once the guidelines have been adopted Ginny will send a letter to all known installers to inform them and send notices to homeowners regarding violations.

STAFF REPORT

Violations – 208 South Second Street

Ginny was happy to report that the metal chimney that had been on the side of the house at 208 South Second Street has been moved to the roof! She noted that there is a piece of plywood that needs to be painted. The Commission agreed to wait until we have had appropriate painting weather to pursue this.

Realtor training – update

Ginny reported that Sally met with RAAR's Continuing Education Committee. They encouraged her to proceed without the continuing education credits because it is such a long and complicated process. They suggested a half day seminar and Ginny gave everyone a proposed outline. She noted that a nominal fee will be charged to help cover costs. It was agreed that September would be a good time because we are approaching the realtors busy season now.

OTHER

None.

Ald. Doug Mark made a **MOTION** to **ADJOURN**. Maureen Flanagan seconded the motion which **CARRIED** by a vote of **6-0**.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted by,
Lucia Rinedollar,
Sr. Administrative Assistant
Community Development Department