

Rockford Historic Preservation Commission

November 3, 2009 – 6:00 PM
Conference Room B
Rockford City Hall

Present Janna Bailey, David Hagney, Scott Sanders, Maureen Flanagan, Mark McInnis
Absent Doug Mark
Staff Ginny Gregory, Reid Montgomery
Others Michael Fumo, Sandra Hawthorne

Approval of minutes

David Hagney made a **MOTION** to **APPROVE** the minutes of the September 16, 2009 meeting. The motion was seconded by Mark McInnis and **CARRIED** by a vote of 5-0.

Scott Sanders made a **MOTION** to **APPROVE** the minutes of the October 6, 2009 meeting. The motion was seconded by Janna Bailey and **CARRIED** by a vote of 5-0.

NEW BUSINESS

Certificate of Appropriateness – 842 Ridgewood Road

Michael Fumo indicated he wanted to remove the cedar slotted fence located on the rear corner of his house to the property line. He proposed replacing the fence with a cedar dog-eared top privacy fence. He would also like to move the fence forward, closer to the front of the house by 18 feet so the exposed basement windows are no longer visible and he would gain more privacy in his back yard.

Scott Sanders asked if there were any other fences surrounding his property. Michael replied there was a farmers fence, approximately 30 years old, along the opposite side of the property which he does not wish to change.

Scott asked if the back yard was on a hill or if there was a drop-off at the back of the property. Michael replied it was a drop-off. Scott asked if the proposed fencing would stay level. Michael replied it would be level all the way across. Scott mentioned he generally didn't approve of fencing being moved into the mid-point of a house, but because of the grade change already at the property it seems appropriate.

David Hagney made a **MOTION** to **APPROVE** the Certificate of Appropriateness. The motion was seconded by Scott Sanders and **CARRIED** by a vote of **5-0**.

Request for Advice – 511 Oak Street

Sandra Hawthorne indicated she rents a Lustron House on Oak Street. The home owner wants to re-roof part or all of the house, depending on the cost. Because it has an unusual tile roof, Sandra is looking at re-roofing options. David indicated he would research appropriate ideas for roofing materials.

Sandra next indicated she has a mulberry tree growing on the property line between her and her neighbor. The tree has begun to split and is very close to hitting three adjacent homes. She wasn't certain if she needed a Certificate of Appropriateness or if she could just remove the tree. Ginny indicated it was possible to approve the removal without a certificate if the Commission's landscape architect indicated it was appropriate to do so. Scott indicated he had no objections in this case due to the tenuous state of the tree and the fact that it is a mulberry tree.

Scott Sanders made a **MOTION** to **APPROVE** the removal of the mulberry tree in the back yard, subject to approval of the neighboring property owner. The motion was seconded by David Hagney and **CARRIED** by a vote of **5-0**.

OLD BUSINESS

Update on Violations – 400 block Kishwaukee Street

Ginny indicated that the City's Code Hearing Officer issued fines totaling \$18,000 (\$4,500 for 407; \$7,500 for 409; and \$6,000 for 415) at last week's hearing. If the property owner can bring the properties into compliance within 30 days, fines would be reduced to 10% of each. Ginny suggested sending a letter from the City attorney to the property owners reminding them they could be fined as much as \$750 per day per violation. Since the first violation was sent over a year ago, the total fines are probably worth more than the properties are worth.

Update on Violations – 904 North Prospect Street

The outstanding issues on the property were the porches, including the railing and the skirting; the door with leaded glass; the siding and the crooked garage door. Based on today's check of the property, the outstanding issues seem to be resolved. Ginny indicated the owner was due in court on Monday, November 9th. Because the owner has done what he was supposed to do, the case will be dismissed.

STAFF REPORT

2010 Schedule

Ginny e-mailed a copy of next year's meeting schedule to the Commission members. There are two instances of the regular meeting date falling on City holidays, July and September. Ginny bumped those to the 2nd Tuesday of the month. Members agreed that this was the best approach for dealing with Monday holidays.

Laurent House

Ginny distributed the form/info sheet last week to Commission members. The University Club event on October 30th had a great turnout. She mentioned the area on the form for support does not include information on where to send the form, but those can be sent to the Community Foundation. The money will be used in part for acquisition, and to establish an endowment fund. They have most if not all of the original Frank Lloyd Wright furnishings.

Full Funding for the Historic Preservation Fund (NAPC handout)

Ginny indicated there is a push for full funding for the national Historic Preservation Fund, which is funded from off-shore leases. The funding is supposed to be approximately \$150 million but Congress has never allocated even half that amount. Therefore, NAPC is asking support for full funding.

COA Summary

Ginny completed a summary of all Certificates of Appropriateness. The next step will compare by topic the actions of the commissions over time to the guidelines that were in place at the time. Guidelines used by the Secretary of Interior Standards were the first guidelines used. In 1991, the first set of local guidelines was adopted and used until 1999 when the current book was adopted.

Enviroshake

Ginny distributed information she had received on Enviroshake, an alternative to wood shake shingles. Ginny guessed it was fireproof but wasn't certain. The cost is 3 times the cost of standard shingles but was guaranteed to last 50 years. This was just for information purposes.

OTHER

Forum Journal

Ginny distributed the Table of Contents for the Forum Journal for summer and fall. She asked Commission members to let her know if they see something they want.

Calendar

Ginny took a count for 2010 IHPA calendars she needed to order for Commission members.

With no further business, David Hagney made a **MOTION** to adjourn at 6:35pm. The motion was seconded by Scott Sanders and **CARRIED** by a vote of **5-0**.