

Rockford Historic Preservation Commission

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

Present: Maureen Flanagan, Mark McInnis, Doug Mark, David Hagney, Janna Bailey (arrived at 6:20 PM), Vicki Krueger (arrived at 6:35 PM)

Absent: Scott Sanders

Staff: Ginny Gregory, Sandra Hawthorne

Others: Mark and Amy Lawrence, David Deery

Approval of minutes

David Hagney made a **MOTION** to **APPROVE** the minutes of the February 2, 2010 meeting. The motion was **SECONDED** by Doug Mark and **CARRIED** by a vote of 4-0.

NEW BUSINESS

Certificate of Appropriateness – 326 South Third Street

The Applicants, Mark and Amy Lawrence were present. Mr. Lawrence would like to install 10' x 16' blue/black slate roofing tiles with a 6" reveal and 3" head lap, open valleys, and copper or tern metal ridge roll. Samples of the slate roofing tiles were presented. Mr. Lawrence stated these were similar to what is existing, but have more quartz content. He explained tern metal is the preference at this time due to the cost of copper; however, he asked that the Commission consider both materials for approval. Mr. Lawrence stated he wants to use copper boxes for collection of water rather than gutters but will be returning to the Commission when construction gets to that point.

Doug Mark made a **MOTION** to **APPROVE** the installation of 10' x 16' blue/black slate roofing tiles, a 6" reveal with 3" head lap, open valleys, and copper or tern metal ridge roll at 326 South Third Street. The Motion was **SECONDED** by David Hagney and **CARRIED** by a vote of 4-0.

Certificate of Appropriateness - 1020 North Second Street

David Deery, Applicant was present. Mr. Deery explained there is an existing 350 foot chain link fence between the properties of 1020 North Second and 1030 North Second, and between 1020 North Second and the YMCA parking lot along the tracks to the west. The section between the parking lot and this property are in need of repair. Mr. Deery wishes to replace this section with new 4' high chain link fence with a top rail in the side yard between 1020 and 1010 North Second Street, and the rear yard to contain their dog and keep the public off the property. He explained only a small section of the fence would be visible from North Second Street.

Mark McInnis stated he had difficulty with approving a fence that is not historic to the era. Ginny pointed out that if chain link fencing is approved, the preference is to use vinyl coated in black, brown or green.

Janna Bailey arrived at 6:20 PM.

In response to a question from Mr. Hagney, Ald. Mark stated a galvanized fence has been approved in the past. Mr. Deery stated there is a portion of the fence that has an existing vine that does cover the fence. Ald. Mark felt if vegetation could be applied to lower the visual effect, he would feel comfortable with approving. Mr. McInnis asked if fencing a smaller area would work and Mr. Deery stated it would not for their purpose of containing their dog.

Ald. Mark made a **Motion** to **APPROVE** a 4' chain link fence with a top rail in the side and rear yards along the YMCA parking lot and between 1020 and 1010 North Second Streets with added condition that vegetation as approved by Scott Sanders, Landscape Architect, be planted that will grow over and disguise the fence in that area visible from the street. Chain link was being approved because it has existed on this property for over 40 years, and because it is not highly visible from North Second Street. The Motion was **SECONDED** by David Hagney.

During discussion, Mr. McInnis felt since a large portion of the existing fence needed to be replaced it would be more appropriate to replace all fencing with something other than chain link. He also suggested laying over this item to have Mr. Sander's input; however, Ginny pointed out there is no guarantee Mr. Sanders would be available at the next meeting. Mr. Deery stated he would be willing to use vinyl coated fencing where required.

Ald. Mark **REVISED** his **MOTION** to state black, brown or green vinyl coating be applied on the south side fencing as well as vegetation where visible from the street. The Motion **CARRIED** by a vote of 4-1, with Mark McInnis voting Nay.

Vicki Krueger arrived at 6:35 PM.

Updating application forms for landmarks and historic districts

Copies of the updating application forms were distributed with the packet. Ginny explained the main addition on the applications was the addition of the requirement to state the period of significance for a proposed landmark or historic district, and allowance of digital photography.

A **MOTION** was made by David Hagney to **APPROVE** the updated application forms for landmarks and historic districts as submitted. The Motion was **SECONDED** by Doug Mark and **CARRIED** by a vote of 6-0.

Proposed amendments to Commission Bylaws

Amendments contained updating as well as changing references to the Code Book. Ginny explained the only substantive change was removing the financial report since no monies are controlled by the Commission. The requirement for staff to provide names of historic and landmark property owners was also removed.

A **MOTION** was made by Doug Mark to **APPROVE** the proposed amendments to Commission Bylaws as submitted. The Motion was **SECONDED** by David Hagney and **CARRIED** by a vote of 6-0.

OLD BUSINESS

Update on violations – 400 block of Kishwaukee Street

Ginny's understanding is that these properties have been sold, but no detailed information is known at this time regarding who the new owners are. When she last drove by them, none of the improvements that the previous owner had been cited for – primarily stabilization of the foundations and repair/replacement of porch railings and steps – appeared to have been done. She stated she would check on their status with the Legal Department before the next meeting and get back to the Commission with a more complete update.

STAFF REPORT

Design guidelines

Ginny asked for input from the Commission on what type of information and format worked best for them to create an ease in reviewing past Commission decisions in comparison with the guidelines. The format she submitted to them included all three sets of guidelines that have been used by HPC – the Secretary of the Interior's Standards, the first set of HPC guidelines adopted in 1991, and the current booklet adopted in 1999. She suggested removing those in the booklet since that was readily available, to which the Commission agreed. This will shorten the document considerably. Ginny agreed to do this and to continue to work on the project.

Other

Ginny received a request from the new owner of 956 Ridgewood to build an addition for a closet the day before this meeting. When she informed him that she could not add him to the agenda for this meeting because of the need to post an agenda 48 hours before a meeting, he requested a special meeting with the Commission the week of April 12th. Sandra Hawthorne made the Commission aware that this permit has already been applied for and is in the review stages in the Building/Zoning area. The Commission indicated their willingness to meet again, with the understanding that they would need more information and drawings. Ginny will send proposed dates to the Commission to coordinate a meeting time.

With no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 7:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Sandra A. Hawthorne
Administrative Assistant