

SEPTEMBER 6, 2011

**HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
City of Mishawaka, Indiana**

The Mishawaka Historic Preservation Commission meeting was held Tuesday, September 6, 2011 at 4:00 PM in Room 205, City Hall. Commission members attending: John Gleissner, Dick Barnette, Dave Eisen, Judy Gray, Tony Obringer, Dave Vollrath and Cliff Zenor. Absent: Mike Bultinck. Advisory Member Dr. William Gering was present. Staff attending: Ken Prince, City Planner and Peg Strantz, Associate Planner.

MINUTES:

The August 2nd meeting minutes were approved as circulated.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: None

OLD BUSINESS:

Preservation Awards have been moved to May 2012 Preservation Month. Per the last discussion four homes were suggested for the Heritage Home Awards, Adaptive Reuse would be Glenn Wheet for the Schindler House at 900 LWW, and Greg Kuharic, 417 Edgewater for the Preservation Award. The categories with no suggestion yet are the Mayor's and Restoration Awards. Cliff Zenor said he will be contacting the South Bend Tribune to discuss showcasing the winners in the newspaper. He said the features editor is open to the idea. He noted that a feature about the Merrifield-Cass House (Martin House) 816 LWE was in the South Bend Tribune recently. John Gleissner suggesting contacting the Mishawaka Enterprise and said he would make contact with one of the DeKevers.

Goals

Mr. Gleissner said we had a discussion in July and ran out of time and it got carried forth. He asked Cliff to give a summary.

Mr. Zenor said he got comments back from two members. He asked the Commission to give more thought to it. He thinks we are at a really crucial stage for what kind of impact the commission will have on our community. He said you don't have to drive very far to see that the historic landscape is changing. Not that that is negative, it is just that right now he feels that the Commission is not part of the discussion of things that are occurring. Indiana Landmarks is still really interested in helping supporting us even though we are not under contract with them.

Mr. Gleissner noted that communication, openness and trust is weak over all in the City. We said the Council is getting ordinances that are a couple million dollars worth of street and road repair, and we have no idea where it is going. He said it seems like common courtesy is being ignored. We are owed a certain respect that is not given.

Mr. Vollath noted that he went to the Redevelopment Commission meeting last month and introduced himself as a member of the Historic Preservation Commission and said I was planning to attend regularly and they were welcoming. He told them it was his hope that we could avoid miscommunications when buildings disappear that may have some historic substance to them. He said they were actually talking about the gym floor project, so they have us in mind. Communication is probably a two way street so we have to get back to them and impress the things that we care about also.

Demolition of 646 Lincolnway East

Mr. Zenor said it would have been nice to save at least the shell of the house. It could have been gutted and would have been a nice place for an owner occupied house with a rental unit. But he did uncover a gem of a house to the east, a prairie style.

Mr. Eisen suggested contacting the Enterprise about a story now with regard to the demolition of the buildings at 646 Lincolnway East saying that demolition wasn't pleasant but look at the gem it uncovered to the east.

Churches

Mr. Gleissner suggested contacting the churches and getting them recognized as a goal. He said there is a brand new video out by Ed Chamberlain from the high school about the history of our churches that is really well done. They are as historic as anything that we have in town and nice variety of architecture.

Mr. Eisen noted that they have been contacted by letter a number of years ago and maybe with the passage of time it might be worth trying. He said that Mr. Chamberlain is coming to the library in January to speak about his film.

Minutes and Agendas

The Commission would like to be made aware of other City Board and Commission meetings by receiving their agendas and minutes.

NEW BUSINESS:

Cliff Zenor handed out a flyer with information about the workshop to research the history of your home that the Historic Preservation Commission of South Bend & St. Joseph County, Indiana Landmarks and Mishawaka Historic Preservation Commission are co-sponsoring on Saturday, October 15th from 9:30 to 11:30 at the downtown Mishawaka Library.

ADJOURNMENT: 4:49 PM

Peg Strantz, Associate Planner

John Gleissner, Chairman
Mishawaka Historic Preservation Commission