

CITY OF MISHAWAKA

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION August 2, 2016

A regular meeting of the Mishawaka Historic Preservation Commission was held Tuesday, August 2, 2016 in Room 205, City Hall, 600 E. Third, Mishawaka , IN.

Meeting was called to order at 4:00 pm.

Commission members in attendance: Mike Bultinck, Terry DeMaegd, Dave Eisen, Judy Gray, Jennifer Johns, Doug Merritt, and Faye Sullivan. Advisory members present: Alan Grzeskowiak, Thomas Morris, and Jason Stoller. Special Guest: Don Heirman. Staff: Christa Hill. Public: Pete DeKever, Joe DeKever, Kathryn Dilworth, Dave Straughn, Ruth Pavich, and Mary Beth Torma.

A motion by Dave Eisen, seconded by Doug Merritt approved the minutes of the July 5, 2016 meeting as presented.

Due to the other items on the agenda, Terry DeMaegd made a motion to move the committee reports until after the public hearing. Doug Merritt seconded.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION – Don Heirman, Mishawaka Museum idea

Mr. Heirman introduced himself. He is a 1958 graduate of Mishawaka High School, growing up on East Seventh Street. He became interested in Historic Preservation in order to save a Bell Laboratories (former employer) building in New Jersey, where he currently lives. He went on to introduce his team: Kathryn Dilworth from Purdue University; Joe DeKever with the Mishawaka Enterprise; and Pete DeKever, author of several books, most recently on the walking tour.

Last summer, Mr. Heirman sent a note to the Enterprise regarding the idea for a Mishawaka Museum. He had contacted the HPC around the same time. The focus will be on Mishawaka, separate from South Bend. Terry DeMaegd asked if there was a committee; Mr. Heirman answered it was the people he introduced, but agreed they would need more help. He is in town for a class reunion and hopes to get support from classmates as well. His presentation will answer questions posed by the HPC. (A copy of the presentation has been attached to these minutes.)

The focus of the museum would be easy and fun. Something that can be used by visitors and residents. This proposal is not meant to impact anything HPC or City is doing. It is independent. Items that could be in the museum should be interactive because kids like to push things. Have continuous showing of Ed Chamberlin's DVDs. Already spoke with Lexi at the Hannah Lindahl. Mr. Heirman's dad worked at Ball Band for many years. Items related to Heritage, people buried in City Cemetery, churches. Displays for special events. Maps showing walking tour based on Pete's book. Directions to Hannah Lindahl. Some resources are the high school alumni association, Mishawaka Enterprise, Historic Preservation Commission and donated memorabilia. Mr. Heirman has original glossy photos of Ball Band, including a plant in Des Moines, Iowa during World War II, making airplane parts. Any partnership would be considered, but should focus on Mishawaka, non-commercial. Kathryn Dilworth has put together museums in the past and knows how to find grants from different sources. Not asking for any money from the City, but would like visibility by having a link on the website. But doesn't want to proceed if there is no interest. One of the locations that has already been looked at is the former Dodge Old People's Home. Christa Hill confirmed it was a local landmark. Other options are a house in the 400 block of Lincolnway East or a house on Race Street. Faye Sullivan suggested the old Interiors, Etc. building on Lincolnway East between her house and the Beiger Mansion. It is up for sale and has a parking lot. Jennifer Johns asked if there were enough artifacts still available to fill the museum? In her 21 years of working in museums, she finds looking for a specific theme quite hard. You really need something unique to bring people in. Museum attendance is down overall. Faye thinks to set up the

CITY OF MISHAWAKA

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION August 2, 2016

place first and fill it as you go along. Mr. Heriman says they need to start slow; do it in stages. There is no timeline, but there are steps. First, a local support team. Getting support from the HPC, Council and Mayor. Then, retirees and local businesses and educational organizations. If there is interest from all these parties, then getting a location, determine funding and getting volunteers. Mr. Heirman is connected with email all the time. HPC can help by supporting the idea and supporting in front of the Council. Since the HPC is local, can identify contacts of others interested. Publicize. Mr. Heirman will be putting an article in the MHS Alumni newsletter. Joe DeKever answered the questions of where items might come from by saying Hannah Lindahl has extra storage, personal collections, things in people's basements waiting to be discovered. Kathryn Dilworth explained there are also traveling exhibits, often through universities. Doug Merritt thanked Mr. Heirman for his presentation and the passion behind this idea. Doug's question is for staff: Could we use the Communicator for a survey question regarding the museum? Christa would have to ask the Mayor's office if we could put something in, but how would it be returned? Mail requires postage. There are several survey sites or create a general email. Anything with the website or email requires IT setting it up. Terry thinks we are getting ahead of ourselves. Our time should be spent on official duties of historic preservation, which this falls under, but we can't devote an entire meeting to. Mike Bultinck agrees our involvement shouldn't compete with our other activities. First we should decide if we support in concept the idea of a Mishawaka Museum? Faye thinks its important to get information out quickly to get people thinking about what they could contribute, not money, but artifacts. Judy Gray thinks we need to make the public aware of preservation.

Terry DeMaegd made a motion that the HPC agrees in concept to a museum for the City of Mishawaka. Faye Sullivan seconded.

Mr. Heirman will continue to contact Christa and CC Terry. Dave Eisen also questions if there is enough artifacts, that are quality and people would part with. Mr. Heirman says it will be a 503(c)3. Faye thinks if people are interested in museums, they will go. If they aren't interested, they won't go. We should all work together to be more visible. Pete DeKever says creating the museum will create interest. The lack of a facility has made efforts harder. The Children's Museum functions as a children's museum. This will have a different focus as historical. There are items out there but people don't know what to do with them. We could even accept things on loan. Jennifer has run into problems when loaning items. Joe DeKever thinks we can expand to all of Penn Township, including Granger and even Osceola. Kathryn Dilworth says more museums create a destination.

Terry will communicate with Don to set up a more in-depth meeting.

PUBLIC HEARING – COA 16-02: Certificate of Appropriateness for The City of Mishawaka to reconstruct rock walls in Battell Park, 301 Mishawaka Ave.

Jared Huss, with the consultant Lawson Fisher presented the City's request to: 1) demolish and replace 26.4' of the southern wall; 2) demolish and replace 40.9' of the northern wall; and raise the height of the northern wall to 3'6". The condition of the wall is seen as a safety concern, so the repair was made part of the Fourth Street project. Lawson Fisher had done previous work on the rock wall. They are only replacing what is necessary to maintain structural integrity. The idea to increase the height of the wall came from a public safety/ADA guidelines. At first, a handrail was suggested, however it was not historic, so on second thought, the decided increasing the height of the wall would solve the safety issue and blend into the existing rock wall. Faye Sullivan asked if the handrail was safer. Jared explained that a handrail in just that one area would call attention to it and possible cause handrails to be installed

CITY OF MISHAWAKA

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION August 2, 2016

throughout the park. Doug thinks the new element, handrail, would cause a stark contrast and the increase in height of the wall is the better solution. Christa asked if they would be using the existing stones and what they would do if they didn't have enough. Jared explained right now the wall is completely stone. When they pour the concrete foundation, the width will be less, and extra stones will be able to be used to make the wall taller. If they still need more, they have suppliers that provided genuine fieldstone. Dave Straughn verified they would not be veneers. Mike Bultinck confirmed that the pavilions in Central Park were constructed the same way with field stone, not veneers. Terry appreciates the City finding the funds to fix this problem. When the HPC looked into repairing the rock wall, it was expensive. Jared said they would also be doing some routine maintenance like tuckpointing. Someone asked when the work would be completed. They are still in the process of bidding the job but expect it to be completed by the end of the year.

Terry DeMaegd made the Finding of Facts motion, seconded by Dave Eisen.

I move that the Mishawaka Historic Preservation Commission find as a fact that the proposed project at the rock wall to the east of the restroom building in Battell Park, known as Certificate of Appropriateness #16-2 if constructed according to the plans submitted on August 2 2016, is compatible with the character of the Battell Park Single Site District, for the reason(s) that this will repair broken section of the rock wall, make the park safer, and utilize the existing rock or, when needed, similar rock to compliment original construction; are generally in harmony with the character of the subject property and/or adjoining properties and the historic district.

Terry DeMaegd made the Approval motion, seconded by Mike Bultinck.

Based on the preceding findings of fact, I move that the Historic Preservation Commission grant/deny a certificate of appropriateness to: *the City of Mishawaka* for application: *Certificate of Appropriateness #16-2*.

Committee Reports:

- A. **Historic Districts/Plaques:** There was no report.
- B. **Public Relations & Community Education:** There was no report.
- C. **Staff Notes:** The Parks Department wants to plant a total of 75 catmint and calamint plants at the base of the rock garden where the willow was previously. Due to the small size of the plants and small size of the area relative to the entire park, a Certificate of Appropriateness was not needed. Doug Merritt misses the willow but appreciates that something will be planted there. Mike Bultinck agrees these are hearty plants that will do well in that area.
We received a call from a concerned neighbor of the Shanower Drive Arch. There are things growing out of it that might damage the arch. It is a landmark, but part of the parks, so I forwarded his concern to the Parks Department.

OLD BUSINESS

Normain Heights Subcommittee Update

The Normain Heights Subcommittee has meet twice since the last HPC meeting, with direction from Todd Zeiger of Indiana Landmarks. Ruth Pavich and Mary Beth Torma are here representing the residents. Mary Beth has a scrapbook of newspaper articles and original advertisements. These items, along with pictures from several of the residents will be added to a Dropbox folder so all members can access them. Indiana Landmarks provided us with a "history" section. Doug Merritt and Alan Grzeskowiak have finished the outline of the guidelines following the Bloomington example. They hope

CITY OF MISHAWAKA

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION August 2, 2016

to present this to the full HPC at the September 6 meeting, therefore the public meeting with the neighborhood would be after that. We will need to coordinate with Liberty School for a date and time. The house at 2340 N Main has been acquired by the City and is being bid for demolition. The Normain Heights residents would like to know when the demolition is happening so they can document the house before it is gone.

Mishawaka Heritage Festival

The festival will be held Sunday, September 4, from 4-9pm with fireworks at dusk. Since we don't want to be in the shelter, Doug can provide a tent and table. We are unsure if we will still have electricity. There are still several brochures from last year and Terry still has the banner from the parade. We are still looking for an incentive to bring people into our tent; either an old car or a game. Alan was going to try to work on a Jeopardy style of game. Dave Eisen suggested a guess how many items in the jar contest. It was decided the Sandborn Maps are hard to read because they are not labeled. The event is shorter this year, so there are not specific shifts, but everyone is invited to help man the tent.

NEW BUSINESS

Certified Local Government

Christa received the CLG report from the state and has a couple of questions before completing it. First, did anyone do any continuing education besides our tour with Todd Zieger of Indiana Landmarks? No. Second, is anyone a member of the National Alliance of Preservation Commissions? No.

Privilege of the Floor

Doug visited Cantigny Park near Wheaton, Illinois and recommends it. It costs \$10 per car; there are gardens, the house is a war museum, and there are tanks for the kids to climb on.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Mike Bultinck and seconded by Dave Eisen. The meeting was adjourned at 5:25 pm.

Terry DeMaegd, Chairman

Christa Hill, Secretary