

**CITY OF MISHAWAKA  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION  
February 6, 2018**

A regular meeting of the Mishawaka Historic Preservation Commission was held Tuesday, February 6, 2018.

**Chairman Doug Merritt called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm.**

Commission members: Mike Bultinck, Dave Eisen, Doug Merritt, Nancy Seidler, and Kate Voelker.  
Advisory members: Alan Grzeskowiak, Shirley McAlister, Jason Stoller, and Cliff Zenor  
Staff: Christa Hill. Public: Dave Straughn.

**After a few corrections, a motion by Kate Voelker seconded by Dave Eisen approved the January 2, 2018 Meeting Minutes.**

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **A. Historic Districts/Plaques**

Doug Merritt provided an architect-recommended, Mishawaka-based mason, Horvath Masonry, LLC. Cliff Zenor will contact him based on his Indiana DB information. Tom Morris recommended Shawn Mahoney to Kate Voelker for work on her own house, but she will get his information to Cliff as well. The issue with finding a qualified mason is due to the "grapevine" mortar. Doug asked if there was any other method of installation? Cliff has asked Todd Zieger, with Indiana Landmarks, but that is just not how it is done. Cliff will send pictures to Indiana Landmarks for advice. Kate says we are our own entity, if we feel the best way to display the plaque is different, like a freestanding block of granite, we should be able to make that decision. Mike Bultinck asked about mounting the plaque to the fence. Cliff says the owner is open to other options, but the fence is in pretty bad shape and may not support the plaque. It needs to be secure, like cemented into the ground, so it cannot be stolen.

It was learned that Joe Grabill has purchased the home at 602 Lincolnway West, near 100 Center, and is using it as his primary residence. We have sent him a welcome letter suggesting landmark status. It is "Notable". From the design of the home, specifically the second door on the right, we thought it might have been a doctor's office. There is no indication from the tax record card of any use other than commercial. Christa Hill researched past owners. It was owned by a Vincent Schirf from as far back as 1976, according to Polk Directory, until his death or when heirs sold it to the Rosebushes in 1999. Joe Grabill has owned it since April of 2017.

### **B. Public Relations & Community Education**

#### **Parks Department Events**

Alan Gzeskowiak received information from the Mishawaka Parks Department about four events this year; Independence Day Celebration (June 30), Mishawaka Heritage Festival (September 2), Fall Harvestfest (October 20) and Flannel Formal (November 2 or 3). We agreed to participate in the Mishawaka Heritage Festival for the third year. Please make note to organizer that we need power when signing up. Also could we be closer to the Ed Chamberlin video? Mike Bultinck suggested the Trunk or Treat instead of the Fall Harvestfest, as a low key event.

If we are going to do events, we revisited promotional items. Larger, dark blue cups, with white lettering. Doug Merritt asked for proof from Stephenson Marketing before voting on spending money. Alan checked with Its Tops, who did our T-shirts, but they were the same cost.

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Alan asked about the Memorial Day Parade. Several Commissioners are already in the parade under other commitments (Council, Boy Scouts, Lions, etc.), so there would not be a large enough group to pull from.

**C. Staff Notes**

Via the City Website, Christa Hill received an email correcting the architecture of the Carnegie Library as Jacobethan Revival instead of Tudor Gable, based on the National Register paperwork. A quick Google search didn't provide absolute confirmation, so it was suggested to ask Todd Zeiger with Indiana Landmarks.

Jason Stoller shared an article from the South Bend Tribune about the history of the Phoenix building. Christa Hill noticed The History Museum was credited with providing information for the article. This may be another resource when researching possible landmarks.

**Doug Merritt made a motion to move New Business before Old Business; Kate Voelker seconded.**

**NEW BUSINESS**

**2018 Goals**

**Remove 8, 17 & 18. These have been completed.**

#6 Preservation Awards are in odd years. In even years we still try to do something like the gym floor piece presentation.

#9 Dave Eisen reported the talks at the Mishawaka Public Library are scheduled through May, but they were run by the Friends of the Library, and that organization had disbanded.

#14 Alan Gzeskowiak wants to have a Saturday morning an education program, perhaps at Battell Center. Doug Merritt thinks that is a large undertaking to still plan for this year. Provide more information to public for other seminars, so we are not copying other programs that are out there. Share this information at our booth at the Heritage Festival. Cliff Zenor suggested asking Indiana Landmarks for a canned educational program we could present at the library. New person with landmarks, Deb Parcel. Cliff's other suggestion would be to show an Ed Chamberlin movie with Q&A afterwards.

#16 We do not sent a separate letter to landmark property owners in May, it is combined with the letter about the sign. Bring letter to review.

New Goal: Doug Merritt asked to add a goal to provide a Scout project. Cliff Zenor already has a project and a scout lined up. The center court of the gym floor, which we promised to the new Mishawaka Historical Museum. We've already been contacted by Ben Baldaras, who is Joey's brother, who had experience on the previous gym floor project.

New Goal: Kate Voelker would like to add Historical Market Marketing Plan. Add to more prominent place on website. Have it out in places, like the Battell Center.

New Goal: Cliff would like to add identifying street signs, specifically for the Normain Heights Conservation District. Doug and Kate suggested the Oaks neighborhood. They would be like those in South Bend's River Park neighborhood. Another thought for Normain Heights is banners on light poles. The neighborhood was investigating brick pillars at the entrances. Normain Heights also has the bronze marker that could be moved/refinished as part of the City's fire station expansion project. We need to discuss what would be covered by the City and what would be covered by the residents.

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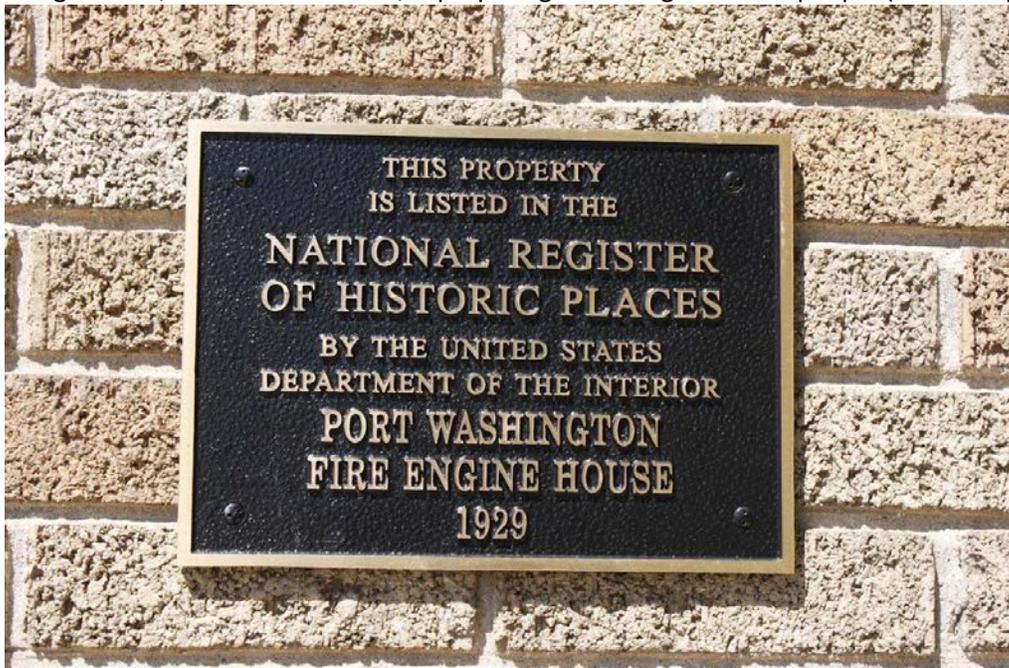
New Goal: Cliff would like to schedule enough education to qualify for CLG. Again, this is something Indiana Landmarks can provide. Doug would like to know if any are available as a webinar. Christa was informed a City Engineering employee is the president of the Wakarusa historical society. They have a town set up and could give us a tour. Cliff says the CLG credits are picky about what counts and what doesn't. A commissioner cannot be the presenter. Indiana Landmarks is now in the Kizer House, perhaps we could have a meeting at their location.

**CAMP in Columbus and CLG Scholarships to Preserving Historic Places Conference**

The state preservation conference will be in Columbus, April 17-20. Since we are a CLG, we were offered two scholarships that covers registration, meals, and lodging at double occupancy rate. Kate Voelker and Nancy Seidler volunteered.

**Plaques for Old No. 4 Firehouse**

Doug Merritt, owner of Old No. 4, is preparing a building mounted plaque (see example).



Doug is also considering a roadside sign, but there are issues with right-of-way and easements, so we are not proceeding with that sign at this time. He wants to include "National Register of Historic Places by the United States Department of Interior". Kate Voelker pointed out it is also a local landmark, which should also be included on the plaque. There is also a national Register number, but that doesn't mean anything to anyone not with the Department of Interior, and would just take up space. Doug asked each Commissioner what they would put on such a sign. There is a standards size, font and color for all the other plaques the HPC has ordered but the wording has changed.

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**OLD BUSINESS**

**100 Center Discussion**

A recap of the discussion with Code Enforcement and Legal from last month was provided for those not at the last meeting. Doug Merritt thinks the conservation district is on hold until after the Code Hearing on April 26. Doug will attend and if given the opportunity to speak, will speak as a private citizen.

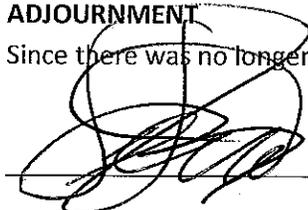
**PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR**

Kate Voelker: Who controls the Historic Downtown Mishawaka on Facebook?

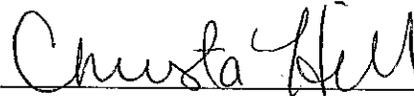
Doug Merritt, in his professional capacity, was before the Whiting Historic Preservation Commission, for approval of an awning. Going to another town's Historic Preservation meeting would qualify as CLG credits.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Since there was no longer a quorum, the meeting was adjourned at 5:44pm.



Doug Merritt, Chairman



Christa Hill, Secretary