

**CITY OF MISHAWAKA
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION**

March 6, 2018

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

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

Commission members: Terry DeMaegd, Jennifer Johns, Doug Merritt, Nancy Seidler, Faye Sullivan, and Kate Voelker.

Advisory members: Alan Grzeskowiak, Shirley McAlister, Thomas Morris, Jason Stoller, and Cliff Zenor.

Staff: Christa Hill. Public: Pete DeKeever, Andrew Frye.

A motion by Kate Voelker seconded by Nancy Seidler, approved the February 6, 2018 Meeting Minutes.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Historic Districts/Plaques

Cliff Zenor spoke with Todd Zeiger about the stone removal suggestion. We need to make sure the contractor has good insurance, even if the homeowner. What have other HPCs done in this situation. Tippecanoe has their plaque mounted to similar stone work wall.

B. Public Relations & Community Education

Christa Hill passed around a proof of the promotional cups. Our logo is on one side and the website, email and phone number on the other side. This is for 300 22 oz royal blue cups and the imprint color is white. The price is \$229 plus shipping. Kate Voelker asked if the HPC get a Facebook page? Cliff Zenor asked about a QR Code. Jennifer Johns says they are not used. We had a QR Code Bryan Tanner made for the Story Map. We need the cups by the Heritage Festival. We will postpone the vote until next meeting.

Kate researched the Historic Downtown Mishawaka Facebook page. It is run by Ron Montandon of the Beiger Mansion. It was 1400 followers. She asked him to help promote the Historical Marker Program and sent him links, but they were not posted. Kate would like to rewrite the Historical Marker page of the website, with help from Jason Stoller and Alan Gzeskowiak.

C. Staff Notes

Christa Hill asked Todd Zeiger a number of questions after the last meeting. He invited us to hold a meeting at their new office location, the Kizer House, followed by a tour. This would meet one of our educational CLG credits. **A motion by Kate Voelker seconded by Shirley McAlister, moved the location of the June 5 meeting to the Indiana Landmarks office at the Kizer House.** As for other CLG programs, the Restore Michiana program is over, but they were having difficulty getting people to attend. A house fair is something that needs about a year to plan, so we could start planning for next year. In the meantime, Ruthmere hosts talks every other month. Instead of doing our own thing, promote other events Indiana Landmarks sponsors. Todd's opinion of the Carnegie Library is a Jacobean Revival style with Flemish Gable features.

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Christa forwarded an email from Father Chris Lapp of the St. Joseph Parish about the convent building, at the corner of Spring and 4th. Do they want to save it, could it be moved, are they planning to demolish it? Plans have been made for Doug Merritt, Dave Eisen and Christa to meet with Father and walk through the building. Kate Volker, Jason Stoller, and Terry DeMaegd are parishioners. Ken Prince pointed out there is a process to demolish any building in the downtown district, whether is it historic or not. We will inform Father of this during the tour.

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

NEW BUSINESS

Historical Marker Application – 834 LWE – Elizabeth Richardson

Peter DeKever prepared the application. Elizabeth Richardson lived at 834 LWE while she attended Mishawaka High School, class of 1936. Later, her family moved to a farm off Dragoon Trail. Kate Voelker found an interview from Milwaukee Downer College During World War II she was a member of the American Red Cross. The book Slinging Donuts for the Boys was written by Dr. Madison at IU in 2007.

Upon a motion by Kate Voelker, seconded by Terry DeMaegd, the Historical Marker for Elizabeth Richardson at 834 Lincolnway East was approved.

Pete would like the installation to coincide with her 100th birthday, on June 8. Invite veteran's groups, Red Cross, Mayor/Council, Mishawaka High School Alumni from 1936-1938. Kate will host a reception, since it is her house.

Christa Hill will send the text, provided by Mr. DeKever, to the sign shop. Hopefully we can have a mock up to vote on next month.

Eagle Scout Project – Gym Center Court

Cliff Zenor penned a letter in support of the Eagle Scout Ben Baldares to complete the center court piece of the Main Jr. High gym floor. Ben is the brother of the Eagle Scout who prepared the gym floor pieces so he has experience. Doug Merritt signed the letter and Christa Hill will mail it to Ben.

Owner Thank You Letter

There were two letters; one we use when we ask if people want a sign in their yard and the other is when we find out property has transferred.

Tom Morris found out two Riviera Place have transferred. One had already contacted the City, but the other one will get a letter with all the rules and regulations for Riviera Place.

Landmarking of Signs

Doug Merritt read an article about an Arby's in Minneapolis that closed and the original hat sign would probably demoed. In the article, it was asked why it wasn't landmarked. Here in Mishawaka, we have an Arby's on McKinley. Signs we've lost include Tribe-o-Rea and Bonnie Doon on Fourth. Jennifer Johns commented the Bonnie Doon girl is at The History Museum in South Bend. Doug's suggestion was some sort of recognition if not a full landmark status as to not encumber the business with another set of rules and regulation. Christa Hill researched the property and found it is part of Town & Country, owned/managed by John Becker. Kate

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Voelker suggested contacting the owner (Town & Country) and also the Arby's owner/operator. What about the cowboy at Town & Country? Faye Sullivan thinks the "Footers" sign is in the Antique store in downtown.

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.

Plaques for Old No. 4 Firehouse

Doug Merritt will pay for the plaque. He is also interested in placing a freestanding sign, but need to work with Board of Public works to determine right-of-way. He likes the wording "By the United States Department of the Interior". Erie Landmarks will design a proof for Commission approval. Erie Landmarks has provided several options for color. Kate Voelker asked if both designations would be on the same plaque or if there would be two plaques.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Pat Myers, who owned 934 Homewood, recently died. According the family, the house is going back to the back. Cliff Zenor said Indiana Landmarks had tried to buy the property for what was owed, but the owner wanted fair market value. Code is aware of the situation. Can it be landmarked?

Shirley McAlister asked about the columns at Riviera Place. Tom Morris shared the driver was drunk, without insurance. Andrew Frye, 2428 Riviera Place, introduced himself as the new owner of the property. He said they were trying the angle that the driver was overserved. Cliff Zenor asked about salvaging the bricks, because they are still just lying in the right-of-way. Doug Merritt will contact Bob Canfield for an update.

Kate Voelker asked about the Normain Heights street sign toppers. Doug Merritt got a sample of what they use in South Bend River Park. Christa Hill sent them to the sign shop and will follow up when she sends the Historical Marker. Doug also investigated banners, but they were much more expensive and deteriorate in the weather. The street toppers are definitely an investment.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion by Kate Voelker, seconded Shirley McAlister, adjourned the meeting at 5:20.

Doug Merritt, Chairman

Christa Hill, Secretary