

**CITY OF MISHAWAKA  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION  
August 7, 2018**

A regular meeting of the Mishawaka Historic Preservation Commission was held Tuesday, August 7, 2018 in Room 205, City Hall, 600 E Third St., Mishawaka, IN 46544.

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

Commission members present: Mike Bultinck, David Eisen, Judy Gray, Jennifer Johns, Doug Merritt, and Nancy Seidler.

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

Staff: Christa Hill. Public: Jennifer Vandeburg, Tammy Pesak, Ron Wiseman.

Upon a Motion by Dave Eisen, seconded by Mike Bultinck, the meeting minutes of June 5, 2018 were approved.

**SPECIAL PRESENTATION**

Jennifer Vandeburg, North Center Community Liaison, Office of Community and Rural Affairs (OCRA) gave a presentation on the Historic Renovation Grant Program (HRGP).

OCRA is a state agency. This grant program is a State program, that has been around for two years. One of their difficulties is finding buildings/owners who qualify. Qualifications: The building must be at least 50 years old; registered or eligible to be registered, or contributing in a district. The property must be used as a business and the owner must pay taxes (no non-profits). The HRGP applies to exterior only.

Examples of eligible work are windows, doors, roof, tuckpointing. Examples of what is not covered are sidewalks, driveways, and landscaping. Work must follow Department of Interior standards and the project must have a Certificate of Approval from Department of Historic Preservation and Archeology.

The grant can be between \$10,000 and \$100,000, but the owner must have a 65% match. An owner must wait three years between grants on the same building. There is no set deadline. If it doesn't get funded, you can get feedback and try again. OCRA can help with filling out the grant application. People who can help with the project are Indiana Landmarks or the Department of Historic Preservation and Archeology. Go to the SHAARD Database to help determine legibility. The SHAARD Database shows a Mishawaka Central Business District, but is it inactive. The 56286 form helps to determine eligibility. Doug Merritt asked how many successful applications there have been. Ms. Vandeburg says the programs in only two years old. The first time it was a competitive grant. \$1 million available each year. Most grants \$35-50,000. Great example Webb Pharmacy in Rochester.

Unfortunately all the work at the Carnegie Library has been completed. Christa Hill has put Ms. Vandeburg in touch with Ron Montadon at the Beiger Mansion. Ms. Vandeburg has already spoken with Mary Lou Stevens with the Downtown.

For more information, visit the website <https://www.in.gov/ocra/hrgp.htm>.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**A. Historic Districts/Plaques**

Cliff Zenor has taken custody of the Dodge Old People's Home plaque. He, Tom Morris and Jason Stoller will coordinate a time to install it in the next week.

**B. Public Relations & Community Education**

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No report.

**C. Staff Notes**

No report.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Plaques for Old No. 4 Firehouse**

Doug Merritt requested this item be tabled.

**Promotional Items**

Christa Hill passed around a proof of the cups, blue cups with white writing. We will order 300 to get the price break. A motion by Dave Eisen, seconded by Nancy Seidler approved an expense not to exceed \$300 from the gift fund to order cups. The vote passed 7-0. Cliff Zenor asked about adding the QR code. Christa Hill will check with the company, but we are getting close the deadline for getting the cups back in time for the Heritage Festival.

**Recognition of Historic of Signs**

Doug Merritt requested this item be tabled.

**Edgewater Drive Historic District Informational Meetings**

After our last HPC meeting, we had a neighborhood meeting with Edgewater. One of the questions was they wanted to hear from others in Historic Districts. We had a second meeting with Ruth Pavich and Mary Beth Torma from Normain Heights and Tom Morris from Riviera Place as someone who has gone through the Certificate of Appropriateness process. At the second meeting we asked for volunteers to form a Committee. We met with the Committee and they asked for some "Mythbusters" like will my taxes go up? They will meet again at someone's home and meet back with us in August. Named "Street Captains." Doug Merritt offered his personal address, email, phone number and has had quite a few people reach out individually.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Mishawaka Heritage Festival**

Alan Grzeskowiak is our point person for the festival. He will follow up about our location and proximity to electricity. Asked to be close to Mishawaka Heritage Museum booth. Anyone who wants to help out that day, even for a couple of hours, please contact Alan directly.

**Education Opportunities**

This is a follow up from something Kate Voelker and Nancy Seidler saw at the Historic Preservation Conference. Hannah Lindal Children's Museum, is without a director. Dave Eisen and Doug Merritt are both on the Task Force. They see it as a transition period and looking for outside funding. The situation is not as bad as the news is reporting, looking for options. Table Educational Opportunities until Hannah Lindal situation has been resolved.

**Street Topper Design**

After the last meeting Christa Hill sent out the different colors for the street toppers. Alan Grzeskowiak asked if we took a vote? Not really. Mayor wants to know how many we plan to install and where? Normain Heights for sure, then Riviera Place. The brick sign, which was recently fixed, does not indicate Riviera Place is historic. Edgewater once they complete whatever process they decide. Judy Gray

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pointed out that our name is not on the sign, just the logo. It would be great advertising for us to add our name. Doug Merritt asked to recap the cost. Christa recalled it was \$3 per sign, \$6 per bracket, labor by the City's sign shop. We have not been charged for the two Historical Markers, but a large order may change that. Continued to next agenda.

**PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR**

Doug Merritt asked the public to introduce themselves. Ron Wiseman, lives in Edgewater. Wanted to see what the Commission was saying about them. Christa Hill asked if he had attended either neighborhood meeting. He attended both.

Shriley McAlister noticed the 100 Center has work being done on the Pier One side. Christa Hill noticed a dumpster and people working.

Shirley McAlister then asked about the St. Joe Rectory. Christa Hill, Doug Merritt and Dave Eisen met with Father and offered resources. Christa Hill thought a decision had been made. Not yet, committee within the parish.

**Eagle Scout Project**

Cliff Zenor passed around text for the plaque, bottom left corner of frame.

ENTER COURT CIRCLE of the GYMNASIUM FLOOR  
Mishawaka Junior High School  
Mishawaka, Indiana c.1910  
- A Collaboration in Historic Preservation -  
Dave Wood, Mayor – City of Mishawaka, Indiana  
Department of Planning & Economic Development  
Mishawaka Historic Preservation Commission  
Ziolkowski Construction, Inc.  
Boy Scouts of Troop 111 – LaSalle Council  
*A Cherished Memory  
Cheerfully Preserved  
By Careful Hands  
For Coming Generations.*  
August 2018

The project is almost done. Might need help to deliver to Pete DeKever at the Mishawaka Historic Museum. Doug Merritt thanked Cliff for his commitment to this project, second year with the same family. He would like to see recognition for the Scout. Christa Hill remembers a mayor proclamation of "Joey Baldaras" Day. Cliff asked for approval to purchase a similar leatherman tool (approximately \$35 expense) for Ben Baldaras. There are expenses for materials, but the Scout is fundraising to (hopefully) cover those.

Doug Merritt wanted to address that we've had meetings without a quorum, and items could not be voted on. Please let Christa Hill know if you will not be able to attend a meeting.

National Register of Historic Places

This is to certify that the

*Wishawaka Fire Station No. 4*

Was listed in the  
National Register of Historic Places

September 18, 2017

by the United States Department of the Interior  
in cooperation with the

Indiana Department of Natural Resources



Cameron F. Clark, Director  
Indiana Department of Natural Resources  
State Historic Preservation Officer



Mitchell K. Zoll, Director  
Division of Historic Preservation and  
Archaeology

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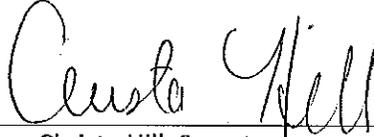
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ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:25.



Doug Merritt, Chairman



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Christa Hill, Secretary