

**CITY OF MISHAWAKA  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION  
October 1, 2019**

A regular meeting of the Mishawaka Historic Preservation Commission was held Tuesday, October 1 2019, in Room 205 at City Hall, 600 E. Third St., Mishawaka, IN 46544

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

Commission members present: Terry DeMaegd, David Eisen, Doug Merritt, Faye Sullivan, and Kate Voelker.

Advisory members present: Shirley McAlister, Tom Morris, and Jason Stoller.

Staff: Christa Hill.

Public: Ruth Pavich, Mary Beth Torma, Arlene Martin, and Dave Straughn.

A motion for the approval of the September 3 Meeting Minutes was made by David Eisen and seconded by Terry DeMaegd.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**A. Historic Districts/Plaques**

Asked Tom Morris for an update on Dr. Wheet. Building has been scraped but not painted. Doing work himself. Slow going.

**B. Public Relations & Community Education**

Doug Merritt attended de-designation workshop. We were only notified that morning.

**C. Staff Notes**

Lincoln Park Comfort Station 10 years ago. State didn't know we designated it but we need the whole application again. New pictures.

Doug Merritt asked are all designation ordinances recorded?

**NEW BUSINESS**

**De-designation Workshop**

Doug Merritt attended. Held in Michigan City, hosted by Indiana Landmarks, speaker from Fort Wayne. The backstory is Fort Wayne has a Frank Lloyd Wright house that was designated by the owner. That same owner came back and asked for a de-designation. The State Legislature has de-designation language, but not a lot of towns have adopted. One recommendation was that decision not be up to City Council, but HPC. Kate Voelker asked why de-designation. Christa Hill asked what was done with the Tivoli? No one remembers that long ago. The Planning, Legal, Mayor's office had to work with State to respond. When asked for more background, Doug explained they knew the house was design by FLW but no history. When a nearby road project was ongoing, the owner created designation for protection. When road project completed, the same owner wanted de-designation. Only looking for short term protection. The town had no guidelines for de-designation. The owner submitted multiple petitions, which caused stress to the staff, which only got worse when the media became involved. Terry DeMaegd asked if there was criteria for de-designation? Doug responded there are at least 12 in the enabling law. Christa had several documents to pass or share via email; staff report, state enabling law, Fort Wayne bylaws. Faye Sullivan asked if they removed the designation to demolish? Not in this case, just didn't want extra layer. Tom Morris has agreed to research other states. Dave Eisen asked if one person could leave the Normain Heights District? The State enabling law requires 60% of owners. Kate asked why would we give them the opportunity? That goes against our mission statement. We definitely want legal to look at before we proceed. Tom found a case in LaPorte where the Council de-designated without HPC involvement. Kate asked if we can differ from the state? Another question for legal.

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**OLD BUSINESS**

**Normain Heights Conservation Expiration Date 5/1/2020**

School responded with two available dates: Nov 12 & 21. There is a conflict with the Plan Commission meeting on the 12, so confirm the 21. We will meet in the library. Update letter with date and time, 7pm. Letter to go out on 2nd, with ballot. Extra ballots at meeting. Doug Merritt will provide visual aids. We asked the neighborhood representative if they've heard anything. No recent events. Has the neighborhood been talking? No events. Ruth Pavich asked if there was an agenda of who will speak? Give history. Only had 1 COA in 3 years. If we don't get enough votes, the COA process will be more frequent. Confirm date with Todd. Rachel handles Facebook page. Ask for people to sign in. Ruth would like speak. Doug Merritt will have the Historic Marker there for a photo-op. Christa Hill put the restored Historic Marker in Communicator with the Street Toppers. Ruth commented another flag was stolen along Main Street in the same spot as before.

**State Historical Makers (Normain Heights, First Bridge, & St. Joseph Ironworks)**

Discussed Normain Heights above. Ken Prince is looking for the HPC to provide a location, then the City will install. Kate Voelker asked where they were previously? There is development happening where they were. Pedestrian oriented, so they can/will be read. First Bridge: near Uniroyal monument N of river. Ironworks near Beutter Park/Riverwalk. Aerial photograph.

**Historical Marker Application – 1801 E Third, Captain Richard C. Brenneman, POW**

Proof printed. Following the same format. Add period after E. Indent second line or center. Email around for final formatting. Have made and installed before Veteran's Day. Mike Bultinck's wife is a teacher at Beiger; be part of Veteran's Day celebration. Terry DeMaegd will announced at the Alumni Association. Dave Straughn will contact the brother on Facebook for a mailing address. All this research is building quite the file to be presented to the Heritage Center. Use picture for press release, on website, during event.

**Edgewater Drive Historic District Committee**

No movement except for updates at 301, Oxford House. Added parking pad in back. The blue house on Cedar can continue. Sent letter to Mr. Jojo. Provided documentation, legal decided it could still be duplex. Never intended to abandon. Paid mortgage, taxes, maintaining when prompted by Code. One side reconnected to utilities. That is the original house to the neighborhood. Christa Hill asked if we think this will get back on track so we can continue? Doug Merritt says the interest in 301 has died down, now that they are in the house.

**Bethel College**

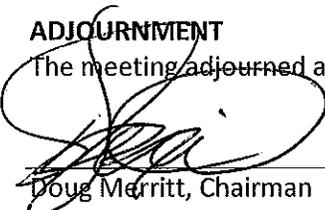
Since Alan Grzeskowiak is absent, request to table.

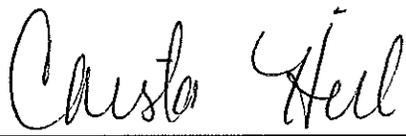
**PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR**

- Faye Sullivan concerned about activity at Dodge Old People's Home. Comings and goings all hours of the night. Loud fights. Calling the police. Get with Kate Volker about nuisance property.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 4:58pm.

  
Doug Merritt, Chairman

  
Christa Hill, Secretary