

KENDALL COUNTY
Historic Preservation Commission
Kendall County Office Building
Rooms 209 & 210
111 W. Fox Street, Yorkville, Illinois
6:30 p.m.
August 20, 2018

CALL TO ORDER

Chairwoman Kristine Heiman called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m. Chairwoman Heiman welcomed new Commissioner Sarah Herbik.

ROLL CALL

Present: Elizabeth Flowers, Kristine Heiman, Sarah Herbik, and Jeff Wehrli

Absent: Melissa Maye

Also present: Matt Asselmeier, Senior Planner and Jasmine Brown Watkins, Office Assistant

In the Audience: None

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Ms. Flowers made a motion, seconded by Mr. Wehrli, to approve the agenda as presented. With a voice vote of four (4) ayes, the motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. Flowers made a motion, seconded by Mr. Wehrli, to approve the minutes from August 2, 2018, special meeting. With a voice vote of four (4) ayes, the motion carried unanimously.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

NEW BUSINESS

Approval of Kristine as Chairwoman of the Historic Preservation Commission

Ms. Flowers made a motion, seconded by Mr. Wehrli, approve Kristine Heiman as Chairwoman of the Historic Preservation Commission. With a voice vote of four (4) ayes, the motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Jeff Wehrli as Vice Chairman of the Historic Preservation Commission

Ms. Flowers made a motion, seconded by Ms. Herbik, to approve Jeff Wehrli as Vice Chairman of the Historic Preservation Commission. With a voice vote of four (4) ayes, the motion carried unanimously.

Approval of a Memorandum of Agreement Between the United States Army Corps of Engineers, Rock Island District and the Illinois State Historic Preservation Officer Regarding the Millbrook Bridge Removal Project Located in Kendall County, Illinois-Commission Could Also Refer the Matter to the State's Attorney Office

Mr. Wehrli asked why the proposal approval was being referred to the State's Attorney's Office. Mr. Asselmeier stated the approval was an agreement that the Historic Preservation Commission will be a concurring party.

If the Historic Preservation Commission wanted to amend the approval of the demolition, this was the time to add requirements like an interpretive marker. Chairwoman Heiman suggested putting a monument at the Millbrook Bridge. Mr. Wehrli questioned if the monument would need to be added to the agreement. Mr. Asselmeier responded that a monument requirement could be added to the agreement. Ms. Flowers stated, from her understanding, the monument would be placed by the Forest Preserve District. Chairwoman Heiman indicated that the Millbrook Bridge has a plaque stating when it was built and who built it; that plaque should be preserved. Ms. Flowers stated the Forest Preserve discussed the historical preservation of the bridge and the price for the monument would be around Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000). Mr. Wehrli stated the Historic Preservation Commission would highly recommend some sort of monument to commemorate the Millbrook Bridge and Chairwoman Heiman agreed. Ms. Flowers suggested there should be a mention of the existing plaque.

Ms. Herbig asked for a summary of the preservation efforts to save the Millbrook Bridge. Chairwoman Heiman stated the Millbrook Bridge was shut down in 2016 because it was deemed unsafe. Ms. Flowers stated that the Historic Preservation Commission had been trying to work with the Village of Millbrook, the Forest Preserve District, and other parties to restore the bridge. However, the financial resources were not available. The Historic Preservation Commission had conducted several studies on the viability of restoring the bridge versus demolishing the bridge. Ms. Flowers stated the bridge will be demolished. Ms. Herbig questioned how much it would cost to demolish the bridge. Ms. Flowers responded that it would cost approximately Three Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$300,000) to demolish and over One Point Four Million Dollars (\$1.4 Million) to restore the bridge for pedestrian use. Discussion occurred regarding previous grant opportunities.

Mr. Wehrli made a motion, seconded by Ms. Flowers, to request that the State's Attorney's Office review the agreement at the same time that they review the agreement between the Corps and Forest Preserve District, with the addition that the Historic Preservation Commission would like an interpretive piece placed near the bridge and to preserve the monument stating when the bridge was built and the party that constructed the bridge. With a voice vote of four (4) ayes, the motion carried unanimously.

Review and Recommendation on Article II-The Historic Preservation Commission Section of the Historic Preservation Ordinance

The consensus of the Commission was to lay this matter over to the next meeting in order to obtain Ms. Maye's legal opinion on the matter.

OLD BUSINESS

Discussion of Awards for Historic Preservation

Mr. Asselmeier provided information regarding Joliet's and Oswego's awards.

Ms. Herbig asked if the property has to be designed historic to receive an award. Chairwoman Heiman stated the Commission mailed letters to properties to be landmarked. However, they received no response from property owners.

Ms. Flowers suggested there should be an award for students involved in class projects. Mr. Wehrli suggested a category could be adaptive reuse of a building. Ms. Flowers mentioned a young man that takes pictures of buildings and compares them to older pictures of the same structure. Ms. Herbig suggested an genealogical related award.

Chairwoman Heiman recommended that the Historic Preservation Commission start bringing in different options for categories for the next meeting with the goal of having an application deadline at the end of February and awards ceremony in May. The awards ceremony should occur at the day County Board meeting.

Discussion occurred on who could submit applications. The consensus was that anyone could nominate a building or individual.

Mr. Wehrli recommended that each Commissioner bring in options for the categories for the next meeting. The other Commissioners agreed with this suggestion.

Ms. Herbig stated she would be open to lunches and dinners with the nominees and owners of historic properties.

Chairwoman Heiman mentioned the need for guidelines to judge submissions. Mr. Asselmeier stated that guidelines depend on the categories.

Commissioners agreed to bring in at least two (2) or three (3) nominee suggestions for the next meeting.

Discussion of Social Media Campaign

Chairwoman Heiman stated that most of the Commissioners did not have the time to monitor social media pages. Ms. Herbig stated she would have no problem doing it. Mr. Asselmeier explained she would have to adhere to applicable law if she is taking the responsibility of the page. Mr. Asselmeier explained what cannot be done; (i.e. interaction between members, deleting feedback or posts, etc.). Chairwoman Heiman stated it would great to have but it's a lot of work. Ms. Herbig suggested using Instagram. Mr. Asselmeier questioned if Instagram was ADA compliant and if not, Instagram cannot be used. Mr. Asselmeier will provide guidelines to Ms. Herbig.

Discussion of Doing a Meeting with Other Historic Preservation Organizations

Approval of a Rental Agreement Between LaSalle Manor Retreat Center and the Kendall County Historic Preservation Commission Allowing the Kendall County Historic Preservation Commission to Rent Meeting Space at LaSalle Manor for the February 13, 2019 Meeting with Other Historic Preservation Organizations at a Charge of Zero Dollars (\$0.00)

Mr. Wehrli made a motion, seconded by Ms. Flowers, to approve the contract, pending insurance approval, with an amendment changing the start time to 6:00 p.m. instead of 7:00 p.m. The change was made to allow for setup time for the meeting. With a voice vote of four (4) ayes, the motion carried unanimously.

Discussion of Prospective Speakers

The consensus of the Commission was to have a representative from LaSalle Manor speak and a representative from McHenry County speak. Following the presentations, group discussion would occur.

Discussion of Prospective Invitees

The Commission reviewed the invitee list. Ms. Herbig suggested inviting historians from Aurora University. The new executive director at the Farnsworth House would be added to the list. A representative from the save the jail group in Yorkville will be added to the list.

CORRESPONDENCE

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Flowers made a motion, Mr. Wehrli seconded by, to adjourn. With a voice vote of four (4) ayes, the motion carried. The Historic Preservation Commission adjourned at 7:32 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Matthew H. Asselmeier, AICP
Senior Planner