

City of Elmhurst
Historic Preservation Commission
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, February 12, 2020 7:00 PM
City Hall Conference Room #1, First Floor

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Commission Members Present:

Erica Blawat, AIA
Dave Falls
Chris Hanson
Reid Stanton

Commission Members Absent:

Marilee Kurdas
John O'Leary, JD
Charmaine Tellefsen
James A. Grabowski, City Manager (Ex-Officio)
Steven M. Morley - Mayor (Ex-Officio)

City Staff Present:

Eileen Franz, AICP, City Planner

3. Approval of Minutes of Historic Preservation Commission held on January 8, 2020

Commissioner Hanson moved to approve the minutes of the January 8, 2020 Historic Preservation Commission meeting. Commissioner Falls seconded, and with a voice vote being all ayes, the motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

4. Public Comment

None

5. Historic Preservation Ordinance Draft Amendments

The Commission continued the discussion on the proposed changes in the draft document. Increasing the number of Commission members from 7 to 9, election of officers, provisions for districts and removing the language regarding pursuing CLG status were all brought up by Commissioner Stanton.

Commissioner Stanton expressed his concern that the proposed ordinance includes language that the Commission pursue and participate in the Certified Local Government (CLG) program. He reported that the language has been included in the ordinance since its inception in 2006. It is his opinion that the Commission has no intention of complying with that provision of the ordinance. For that reason Commissioner Stanton stated he cannot support adopting a revised ordinance that commits the Commission to pursue something it has no intention of pursuing.

Commissioner Stanton noted the more time he has to consider the ordinance the more opportunities for improvement he uncovers.

There was further discussion of the CLG requirements and the City ordinance regarding "owner consent". Commissioner Stanton reported he contacted the State Historic Preservation Office and was advised that owner consent is not a barrier to a community becoming a CLG. This is contrary to information previously provided by the IHPA. CP Franz reported that in the past she was advised that the lack of a procedure to establish a district is also a barrier to becoming a CLG Community.

Other considerations were raised by Commissioner Stanton including expanding the number of commission members from 7 to 9. He referenced minutes from November of 2008 where this was discussed by the Commission and recommended for approval. The possibility of adding the position of Vice Chair, a position that does not appear in the ordinance, but shows up in the minutes in June 10, 2015 was also discussed. Commissioner Stanton also stated he would prefer the annual election of officers by the members of the commission rather than appointment by the Mayor. Mayoral appointment necessarily places the appointed officer(s) in a tight spot. Being appointed by the Mayor is a high honor. However since there are no term limits an appointment is a lifetime appointment. People go through life stages. In one of the earliest of meetings there is a whole paragraph on the chairmanship, and no one really wanted it, as they were all too busy. Election of officers by the members, as is done in Evanston has a lot going for it.

CP Franz agreed on the need for a Vice-Chair and stated that most, if not all the Commission Chairs are appointed by the Mayor and that a change is unlikely.

Commissioner Hanson inquired about having an employee from the History Museum attend meetings and if there is an opportunity for an Aldermen to act as a liaison to the Commission.

CP Franz will report back on the items at the next meeting.

6. Preservation Month Planning and Decision Making

- a. Inclusion of Elmhurst Art Museum's May 16, 2020 modern architecture tour in Preservation Month publicity
- b. Screening of The Greenest Building (Documentary) and press release
- c. Preservation Month poster and/or flyer/leaflet design (text and graphics) and budget
- d. Preservation Month Mayoral Proclamation assignment
- e. Library Display

Commissioner Stanton went over the document he prepared that was distributed to the Commission prior to the meeting. The Commission also discussed a presence at Art in Wilder the Park. CP Franz will report back as to whether there is a City table the Commission can share. The Commission discussed a possible scavenger hunt throughout City Centre and partnering with local establishments on food and drink specials.

Commissioner Blawat and CP Franz reported that they have met with Museum Staff and are working on the content for the display. Two of the landmark owners agreed to participate in the display. Photos, information on the HPC and landmarking process and the History Museum will all be included.

CP Franz will work with the appropriate staff on the Preservation Month proclamation. The proposed language may change.

Commissioner Stanton suggested that the Commission print and distribute small "This Place Matters" posters to local businesses and residents throughout town. The information is from the National Trust for Historic Preservation and there is an entire toolkit available for download. Discussion will continue at the next meeting on this. CP Franz will share with the Communications Manager and report back to the Commission on City logo use. Sponsorship of activities was also discussed.

CP Franz reported that she will also share the proposed poster with the Communications Manager for review and approval. Additional activities may be added prior to finalization. Commissioner Stanton reported that he reached out to Minuteman Press on a quote but has yet to hear back. He does not anticipate the cost to exceed \$500.

Commissioner Stanton reported that he has a copy of the Greenest Building and that Commissioners are welcome to borrow it and view it prior to the next meeting. The Commission agreed that taking action on the screening of the documentary will take place at the next meeting so Commissioners have the opportunity to view it.

Commissioner Blawat made a motion to move forward with planning for the items listed under agenda item 5 with the exception of letter c. Commissioner Hanson seconded.

Roll call vote as follows:

Ayes: Blawat, Falls, Hanson, Stanton

Nays: None

Absent: Kurdas, O'Leary, Tellefsen

Motion carries with 4-0 vote.

7. Other Business

Commissioner Blawat shared information on the original architectural plans for 320 S. Kenilworth. Commissioner Stanton commented on whether agendas should have new business and old business items.

8. Adjournment

Commissioner Stanton made a motion to adjourn at 8:32 p.m. and Chairman Blawat seconded. Motion passes with a voice vote.

Submitted by: Eileen Franz AICP, City Planner