



WILL COUNTY
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

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Minutes

April 7, 2010 – 7:00 P.M.

FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT OF WILL COUNTY OFFICE
17540 LARAWAY ROAD
JOLIET, ILLINOIS 60433

REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING

1. Call to Order

Ferry called the meeting to order at 7:05 P.M.

2. Roll Call

Commissioners Present:

Virginia Ferry; Chairwoman

Mark Batson

Catherine Boo

John Lamb; Vice-Chairman

Gretchen Sullivan; Secretary

Sandy Vasko

Daniel Seggebruch

Commissioners Absent:

Kirsten Steeves

Denise Issert

Staff:

Amy Munro; Will County Land Use Department

Demitri Palios; Intern, Lewis University

Tim Good; Forest Preserve District of Will County

Phil Mock; Will County State's Attorney's Office

Others:

Diane Batson; New Lenox Historical Society

A quorum was present.

3. Approval of Agenda

Sullivan moved that the agenda be adopted as presented. Vasko seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

4. Approval of March 3, 2010 Minutes

Sullivan moved that the minutes be approved as presented. Lamb seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

5. Public Comments

Diane Batson of the new Lenox Historical Society presented the Commission with two posters for national Historic Preservation month. One was of the Salisbury House, a County landmark. The other reflects the society's emphasis this year of highlighting unlandmarked structures: the VanDuser-Handorf House.

6. Chairman's Report

Ferry welcomed Good back into the Commission's service, and extended the Commission's appreciation and warm wishes to Harry Klinkhamer for his years of hard work on the Commission's behalf. She also introduced the Land Use Department's intern Demitri Palios from Lewis University who has been assisting Munro. Ferry expressed her appreciation for Commissioners Sullivan, Boo and Seggebruch for attending the Plainfield Park District's Board meeting on the Commission's behalf.

Ferry reminded the Commission that May will be Preservation Month, and that several of the Commissioners will be making presentations before Township Trustees about landmarks in their area, and preservation in general. A new panel board will be available for these presentations. Commissioners were asked to advise her of good locations in Joliet or Jackson Townships for the relocation of the Offerman School in Jackson Township. Commissioners were reminded to look for and nominate landmarks in their areas.

7. Staff's Report

Munro described all of the work that Palios has done in research, procedural enhancements, template preparation, etc. that will benefit the Commission long after his internship is done at the end of the month when he graduates. She reminded the Commission that it has a new Facebook page (at <http://www.facebook.com/home.php?#!/pages/Joliet-IL/Will-County-Historic-Preservation-Commission/352693168788?ref=ts>; or once on Facebook, search for Will County Historic Preservation Commission).

8. New Business

a. Continuation of Rural Survey in Reed and Custer Townships

Munro advised the Commission that the Preserve America Grant staff have approved using Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates (WJE) and the remaining \$11,500 for this project if the Commission desired to proceed. She advised the Commission that there were enough funds to complete the survey and documentation, but not enough for a final report. Vasko moved that the County proceed with retaining WJE to conduct the work. Sullivan seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

b. Promoting Sesquicentennial Churches (Sponsor: Illinois Historical Society) and Centennial Farms (Sponsor: Illinois Department of Agriculture) in Will County

Munro and D. Batson summarized the programs and some of the current participating churches and farms in Will County, and explained the application process for each program. The Commission directed Munro to work to promote greater use of these programs in the county.

c. Demolitions

No demolition applications were presented.

d. Other

No other new business items were raised.

9. Subcommittee Reports

a. Landmark Nomination

The City of Wilmington has passed a Resolution of Support for the landmarking of the Bowen-Davy-Tyrakowski House. The St. Paul United Church of Christ is discussing nominating multiple structures with Munro. County Landmark plaques are done for Miller's Insurance Agency and the Octagon House. One or both will be presented to the owners at the Commission's May meeting for Historic Preservation Month. Palios shared a nomination process flow-chart that he had designed.

b. Education

Nothing was discussed.

c. Interagency Cooperation

Vasko updated the Commission on the Will County Heritage Alliance. The Museum Technique Workshop conducted at the Will County Historical Society was very successful.

David Belder will be giving a presentation at the next Alliance meeting April 24th in Braidwood. The Forest Preserve District has not yet designated a replacement on the Alliance for Klinkhamer; the future of the Alliance will need to be considered after the April meeting.

Seggebruch shared information on preservation efforts in Plainfield. The Village has recently rejected a proposal to create a downtown historic district.

10. Old Business

a. Preservation Month

1. Communicating the message of historic preservation

Munro is working to complete the Commission's exhibit board. She solicited ideas from the Commission about why (other than financial benefit) people would want to support preservation or landmark their structures.

2. Township meetings

Munro distributed the list of township meeting dates and participants for May. She also distributed potential talking-points to assist Commissioners, as well as information packets and business cards. Vasko volunteered to also present before Custer Township.

b. Clow –Stephens House Update (Plainfield Park District)

Sullivan, Boo and Seggebruch's presentation on adaptive reuse before the Park District was well received; the Board appeared impressed that a third of the Commission cared so much about preservation as to appear before them and assist them. Munro felt that they were open to new ideas and not in a hurry to make a final decision on the fate of the structure.

11. Announcements

On May 22nd, there will be a ground breaking ceremony at Konow Farm in Homer Township in preparation for the upcoming relocation of Tilsy Barn. The Commission and the New Lenox Historical Society will have booths set up at the event to distribute educational materials, and to solicit landmark nominations and nomination ideas.

12. Adjournment

Sullivan moved that the meeting be adjourned. Boo seconded the motion which passed unanimously at 8:45 P.M. The next meeting will be May 5, 2010.