

MINUTES
VILLAGE OF HINSDALE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

November 12, 2013

Memorial Hall – Memorial Building, 19 East Chicago Avenue, Hinsdale
5:00 P.M.

Chairman Peterson called the meeting of the Historic Preservation Commission to order at 5:07 p.m. on November 12, 2013 in Memorial Hall in the Memorial Building, 19 East Chicago Avenue, Hinsdale IL.

Present: Chairman Peterson, Commissioner Bohnen and Commissioner Hutter

Absent: Commissioner Harloe-Mowery and Commissioner Gonzalez

Also Present: Village Planner, Sean Gascoigne

Minutes

Chairman Peterson presented the minutes from the October 8, 2013 meeting. Commissioner Hutter motioned for the approval of the minutes from October 8, 2013. Commissioner Bohnen seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Findings and Recommendations

HPC-01-2013 – 820 N. Washington Street – Follett Residence – Local Landmarking

Chairman Peterson provided a brief summary of the discussion that took place on this agenda item at the last Historic Preservation Commission meeting and highlighted the findings and recommendations that were included based on these discussions.

Commissioner Hutter motioned to approve the findings and recommendations for HPC-01-2013 – 820 N. Washington Street – Follett Residence for Local Landmarking. Commissioner Bohnen seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Hearing

HPC-02-2013 – 319 N. Washington Street – Barrow Residence – Withdrawal of Local Landmarking (Transcript of the following Public Hearing on file).

Chairman Peterson opened the public hearing and asked if the applicant was present.

Beth Barrow introduced herself and summarized the request, which consisted of the withdrawal of the local landmarking status of the single-family home at 319 N. Washington Street. She went on to provide a brief background and her service for the Village with various Committees and Commissions, as well as explaining how important preservation was to her and her husband. She then proceeded to summarize the letter they had provided to the Commission and how the decision to withdraw their landmarking status came about.

Commissioner Bohnen expressed his appreciation for the history of the neighborhood but questioned the specific reasons for their desire to withdraw the local landmark status. He

then asked Mrs. Barrow if she felt that the landmark status on the home impedes in any way, the interest of someone buying it.

Mrs. Barrows indicated that she did and explained the difficulties she was experiencing with other landmarked homes not selling.

General discussion ensued regarding the history of teardowns in Hinsdale and what part they have played in not only a general preservation aspect, but also opinions on what role teardowns in a neighborhood surrounding a landmarked home could potentially have on the landmarked home.

The Commission went on to discuss with the applicant how the local landmarking impacted their ability to market the home and potentially sell it to someone that wanted to tear it down.

Mr. Gascoigne explained that this is the first time a request had come in for a withdrawal so he wasn't entirely certain. He indicated that it was his understanding that a local landmark status required a homeowner to obtain a Certificate of Appropriateness for any exterior improvements done to the landmarked home that impacted the appearance from the street, but that it did not impact the ability to tear a home down. He then stated that he would be happy to follow up with the Village Attorney to get his opinion if the Commission and applicant were so inclined.

The Barrow's indicated that they would appreciate that, as their understanding was entirely different.

Mr. Gascoigne stated that he would be happy to follow up with the Village Attorney.

General discussion ensued regarding the suggestion to continue the request to the December meeting until all of the questions could be resolved. After a brief discussion the applicant agreed to continue the case until more information was available.

Commissioner Bohnen motioned to continue case HPC-02-2013 – 319 N. Washington Street – Barrow Residence for the Withdrawal of the Local Landmarking to the Historic Preservation meeting of December 10, 2013. Commissioner Hutter seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Peterson thanked the Barrow's and moved on to the discussion points and requested an update from Commissioner Hutter on his progress with the schools and associated contests.

Commissioner Hutter summarized his progress at the Middle and High School.

Chairman Peterson moved on to the subsequent bullet points on the agenda and general discussion ensued regarding the inclusion of an announcement for the upcoming presentation regarding the tax freeze process.

Mr. Gascoigne indicated that he would work with the IT Department to post the announcement in the Village's e-newsletter, the two Fridays preceding the meeting of the presentation.

Chairman Peterson continued with brief updates on the additional agenda items and informed the Commission that the process required to increase the Commission from 5 to 7 members was underway and that we would have an update at the next meeting.

Adjournment

Commissioner Bohnen moved to adjourn. Commissioner Hutter seconded and the meeting adjourned at 5:43 p.m. on November 12, 2013.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sean Gascoigne
Village Planner