

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

City of Moline

Minutes: May 13, 2013 4:00pm **City Hall Council Chambers**

Present Commission Members: Commissioner Dan Mizner
Commissioner Jolene Keeney
Commissioner Scott Perkins
Commissioner Barb Sandberg
Commissioner Craig Mack
Commissioner Curt Roseman

Absent Commission Members: None (one vacant commissioner position)

Staff: Patrick Burke

Guests: Chip Nelson, Becky Rinard, Diann Moore, Harris Alias,
Betsy Silvah, Mayor Scott Raes, Laura Duran, Peter McDermott

Commissioner Sandberg called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

Approval of Minutes:

Commissioner Keeney made a motion to approve the minutes for the April Commission meeting. Commissioner Mack seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Sylvan Island Bridge

Before Commissioner Roseman began his presentation, Harris Alias addressed the Commission. He requested that everyone attend the Rock Island City Council meeting at 6:45 pm to lend support to saving the Audubon School.

Commissioner Roseman presented the historical significance of the bridge. There were only three locations on the river where water power was generated – Minneapolis, Keokuk, and Moline (1872 water power project). Commissioner Roseman believes the two oldest existing bridges on the Mississippi River are the 1872 wagon bridge and the Sylvan Island Bridge.

The Bridge has never been evaluated completely, only what you can see from the top and bottom, assuming that it is steel underneath the bridge. A structural engineer will be looking at the bridge to see what is to be done with it. There is a desire to see the bridge open again for the community to enjoy Sylvan Island. A few ideas were expressed on how to get people over to the island, one of the possibilities was for the Channel Cat to ferry people over to the island using a smaller boat. There was an idea for a temporary bridge like the U.S. Army uses, but due to safety and various laws and ordinances that is not a possibility.

Reports:

DRI & NW Depot - Update: Bill Brewer's WIU class presented their ideas for the potential use of the depot with four groups presenting. The ideas offered were, a student union, community relations building, a sports rental facility and a student/public welcome center. There was discussion on getting other classes to participate

such as Marketing, and Interior Design. Several commissioners and MPS President Diann Moore attended the presentation at WIU.

Sears Warehouse - Amtrak Depot Update: Pat Burke stated that he might not be able to give the Commission updates every month because not much is going on at present. The TIGER grant, which will be the major source of funding for the depot, runs out in 2014.

Berglund Bldg: Mark Roemer's project is moving forward, and the Barrel House restaurant is scheduled to be opening soon in the building's street level space.

Skinner Block & Skinner Annex: Still having parking issues.

Davis Building-Former Collectors Center Pending Hotel Plans: Still working on architectural plans, and an environmental study.

Other Historic Moline Buildings – Report on the MPS tour of former Grant Bldg: Commissioners who attended the tour were very impressed with how the adaptive reuse of the former Grant building was achieved. All work was approved by the state historic preservation officer in charge of renovations qualifying it for the 20% historic tax rebate. The new owners, with the use of an accountant, determined that all five parties were able to benefit from the historic tax credits, a major incentive for continuing renovations in Moline's Downtown Historic District.

Old Business:

John Deere House: Another section of the wall has fallen and other sections are crumbling and about to come down. The former Deere carriage house was deemed unsafe and has been torn down.

Main Street: Director Pam Owens last day is May 8th and the city is currently looking for her replacement.

Belgian Bluff – Update: None

Facade improvements-

City Hall celebrates 100 Years 1913-2013: Looking at the 5th or 19th of October both of those dates are Saturdays. Commissioner Keeney will talk to the Mayor to see which date is the best.

Other: None

New Business:

Review of IHPA April training session for HPC & Main Street Façade Committee presented by Catherine O'Connor & Anthony Rubano- Both state historic preservation representatives put to rest the Commissions question on who can write the proposals for Historical Districts and Properties for the National Register. Anyone may submit a proposal for consideration. If state grant money is used to compile a National Register document, then a person with a degree must be the one to oversee the writing of that document.

Discussion of IL. Historic Property Tax Assessment Freeze program- The Commission agreed to move forward with the Program. Commissioner Keeney made the motion to propose to the city the Historic Property Tax Assessment Freeze program, and forward it to the IHPA to include the city in the tax freeze. Commissioner Mizner seconded the motion, the motion passed unanimously.

Potential Historic Districts: Still looking at Belgian Bluffs for a Historic District among other areas in Moline.

Nominations and Election of HPC officers for the upcoming year 2013-14: The officers elect are:

Chair-Barb Sandberg

Vice Chair- Craig Mack

Secretary- Curt Roseman

Announcements:

May 23 Neal Dahlstum will give a talk at the Butterworth center at 7:00 p.m. in the Oak Room

May 28th Butterworth Center library 7:00 pm Speaker Gayle Rein “Logging on the Mississippi”

June 1st Downtown Walking tour conducted by Curt Roseman.

Annual state Preservation Conference June 27-29 Evanston, Illinois

Adjourned

Next Meeting June 10, 2013

Respectfully submitted,

Scott Perkins