

**VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES**

**August 24<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

A meeting of the Historic Preservation Commission was held on August 24<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. in the First Floor Community Room at the River Forest Village Hall, 400 Park Avenue.

**I. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. Upon roll call, the following persons were:

Present: Chairman Franek, Commissioners Krusinski, Saeger, Graham-White

Absent: Commissioners Raino-Ogden, Forehand, Muhr

Also Present: Management Analyst/Deputy Clerk Luke Masella

**II. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES – JULY 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

Chairmen Franek asked that on page two of the meeting minutes, the word “surrounding” in paragraphs three and four be changed to, “regarding.”

A MOTION was made by Commissioner Saeger and SECONDED by Commissioner Graham-White to approve the meeting minutes as revised for the July 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023, meeting.

AYES: Chairman Franek, Commissioners Krusinski, Saeger, Graham-White

NAYS: None.

Motion Passes.

**III. PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

**IV. APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS - 563 PARK AVE - HOME**

Chairmen Franek invited the applicant from 563 Park Ave, Dylan Keiser, up to the podium to give background on the home and the application for a Certificate of Appropriateness.

Mr. Keiser provided background information on the home and the application.

Mr. Keiser stated they will do their best to keep the original trim intact.

Chairman Franek asked if any members of the commission had questions or comments.

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The commission and the applicant had a conversation regarding critter remediation. Commissioner Saeger stated she was happy with type of siding the applicant chose.

Chairman Franek thanked the applicant for their attention to detail in their application and shared a story about his own experiences with animals in his home.

A MOTION was made by Commissioner Saeger and SECONDED by Commissioner Graham-White to approve Certificate of Appropriateness application for 563 Parke Avenue.

AYES: Chairmen Franek, Commissioners Krusinski, Saeger, Graham-White.

NAYS: None.

Motion Passes.

**V. REVIEW OF APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS FOR COMPLETENESS - 604 BONNIE BRAE - HOME**

Chairman Franek asked the commission if they had any questions or comments about the application.

Commissioner Saeger pointed out some discrepancies between the Plat of Survey and the drawings regarding the height of the home.

Chairmen Franek stated that the new delineations added to the application have eased his concerns from the previous meeting.

A MOTION was made by Commissioner Krusinski and SECONDED by Commissioner Saeger to accept the application for Certificate of Appropriateness at 604 Bonnie Brae as complete.

AYES: Chairmen Franek, Commissioners Krusinski, Saeger, Graham-White.

NAYS: None.

Motion Passes.

**VI. CONSIDERATION OF APPLICATIONS FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION AWARDS**

**a. 210 Gale Avenue - Garage**

Chairmen Franek gave background on the application and his thoughts on which award would be relevant for this project.

Commissioner Saeger stated that the project is well done and that the project could also be considered for the Streetscape Compatibility Award. Chairmen Franek agreed.

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Deputy Clerk Masella stated that he thought Commissioner Forehand was responsible for asking the applicant to submit an application for the awards.

A MOTION was made by Commissioner Saeger and SECONDED by Commissioner Krusinski to award the Streetscape Compatibility Award to the owners of 210 Gale.

AYES: Chairmen Franek, Commissioners Krusinski, Saeger, Graham-White.

NAYS: None.

Motion Passes.

**b. 727 Keystone Avenue - Rear Addition**

Chairmen Franek noted that the rear addition added to the property is nearly seamless and noted being impressed with the work.

Commissioner Saeger noted being impressed with the work done as well.

Chairmen Franek suggested the commission consider the Laurel McMahan Restoration Award or the Renovation Award.

Commissioner Saeger suggested the commission wait until after reviewing the next award at 823 Keystone to make a decision.

**c. 823 Keystone Avenue - Siding, Roof, Front Porch, and Landscaping**

Chairmen Franek complimented the improvements made to the appearance of the home.

Commissioner Saeger stated that the applicants did a lovely job.

Chairmen Franek asked the commission if they had any thoughts on which awards will be given to 727 Keystone and 823 Keystone.

Commissioner Saeger asked if the work done at 727 Keystone can be considered renovation.

She also wondered if it would have been possible to even recreate the original architectural features at 823 Keystone with modern building codes.

Chairmen Franek stated there is nothing to suggest that the commission cannot present the same award to multiple applicants.

He also stated he thought the Laurel McMahan Restoration Award would be applicable for 823 Keystone and the Renovation Award would be appropriate for 727 Keystone.

Commissioner Seager agreed.

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Commissioner Graham-White pointed out that in the ad, the development is referred to as “restricted” and noted many of the negative connotations this word used to hold in the real estate world.

Chairmen Franek agreed that “restricted” was used in the past in reprehensible real estate practices. He noted that there was a chance that the word was used in relation to the designs of the homes in the area.

Chairmen Franek stated that if there was a restricted covenant that attempted to keep groups of people out of the area, it would be in the original deed. He also commented that if there are restricted covenants in the deeds of these homes, it casts this neighborhood in a different light.

The Commission agreed to postpone any further considerations regarding this neighborhood until further research is done regarding the deeds of the homes.

Commissioner Saeger stated she would attempt to locate the original deeds of the homes.

**X. OTHER BUSINESS**

None.

**XI. ADJOURNMENT**

A MOTION was made by Commissioner Krusinski and SECONDED by Commissioner Saeger to adjourn the August 24<sup>th</sup>, 2023 meeting of the Historic Preservation Commission at 8:12 p.m.

AYES: Chairman Franek, Commissioners Krusinski, Saeger, Graham-White

NAYS: None.

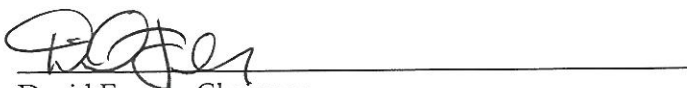
Motion Passes and the meeting ended at 8:12 PM.

Respectfully submitted:



Luke Masella  
Deputy Clerk/Management Analyst

Approved:



David Franek, Chairman  
Historic Preservation Commission

3/28/24  
Date