

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

January 26, 2017

A meeting of the Historic Preservation Commission was held on January 26, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. in the Community Room at the River Forest Village Hall, 400 Park Avenue.

I. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m. Upon roll call, the following persons were:

Present: Chairman Zurowski, Commissioners Franek, Pritz, Graham-White, Prestes, and Raino-Ogden

Absent: Commissioner Popowits

Also Present: Management Analyst Jon Pape

A MOTION was made by Chairman Zurowski and SECONDED by Commissioner Raino-Ogden to allow Commissioner Pritz to participate in the meeting telephonically.

AYES: Chairman Zurowski, Commissioners Franek, Pritz, Graham-White, Prestes, and Raino-Ogden

NAYS: None.

II. PUBLIC TESTIMONY

John Dzuryak, 315 Forest Avenue, spoke in regards to the art deco panels that were formally located at Washington school, which he stated were demolished in 1998. He was interested in learning if the Commission was able to help him to preserve, present, and display, the two art deco panels. Mr. Dzuryak stated that he has visited various Commissions and groups previously to speak about his desire to preserve these panels. He noted that the panels, which were previously stored outside with the Park District, were now stored under the Village's care in the Public Works garage. Mr. Dzuryak provided in-depth historical information and a description of the items to the Commission. He reiterated his desire to bring these items out of storage to be displayed in the community.

Chairman Zurowski thanked Mr. Dzuryak for coming to the meeting. He stated that he remembered hearing about the issue previously and was glad the items were no longer being stored outside.

Management Analyst Jon Pape stated that the Village and School District have been in touch regarding the appropriate place for these items to be kept long-term. He stated that the School District has expressed interest to the Village in displaying one of the two panels outside of their administrative building.

Commissioner Raino-Ogden suggested that the panels be used as a back to a park bench.

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Chairman Zurowski stated that the Commission will keep this item on their list going forward.

III. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

No comments were heard in regards to the December 15, 2016 meeting minutes.

A MOTION was made by Commissioner Franek and SECONDED by Commissioner Graham-White to approve the minutes of the December 15, 2016 Historic Preservation Commission meeting.

AYES: Chairman Zurowski, Commissioners Franek, Pritz, Graham-White, Prestes, and Raino-Ogden

NAYS: None.

Motion Passes.

IV. CONSIDERATION OF HISTORIC PROPERTY MODIFICATIONS AND APPLICATIONS FOR CERTIFICATES OF APPROPRIATENESS

A. 7800 AUGUSTA – ADDITION

Lance Shalzi, Airoom Architects, spoke on behalf of the application for 7800 Augusta. He stated that the proposed project is to remove the existing framed porch and build a more permanent structure in that place as an addition to the home. Mr. Shalzi stated that the desire with the exterior was to mimic what was already present while adding a few elements from the rest of the structure.

Commissioner Raino-Ogden stated that he felt the proposed design did not appropriately blend with the rest of the structure. Due to the proposed structure being large, he felt that designing the exterior of the addition to match the current small porch was not appropriate. Commissioner Raino-Ogden asked why the proposed plan was not designed to incorporate the look and feel of the rest of the structure.

Mr. Shalzi stated that some of the considerations were budget related but also expressed a dilemma in capturing elements of the structure due to the step down that the new addition will have.

Commissioner Raino-Ogden shared a sketch that he had prepared that showed the proposed addition with elements more consistent with the rest of the structure including additional brick and clay tile roofing. He expressed that he felt that this captured a more historically appropriate solution.

In response to a question from Commissioner Pritz, Mr. Shalzi stated that he could not confirm whether or not the existing porch was original to the home. A conversation was had as to if the proposed addition was true to the original intent. Commissioner Raino-Ogden stated that because the use and size of the room was changing so drastically, he did not feel that designing the new addition to look like the current porch was appropriate.

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Mr. Shalzi stated that the room was also designed to tie elements from the garage on the property to serve as a transition between that structure and the home. Commissioner Franek stated that the garage had the clay tile roof which helps to tie it to the main structure.

In response to a question from Chairman Zurowski, Mr. Shalzi stated that it may be difficult to add additional windows due to the future usability of the room.

Mr. Shalzi summarized that the Commission would like to see that the banding elements from the existing structure be incorporated into the new addition, mimic the limestone accents, include the clay tile roof, and bring the proposed stone sill up to the bottom of the windows. Mr. Shalzi stated that he would bring the suggestions back to the homeowner.

V. REVIEW OF ONGOING COMMISSIONER ASSIGNMENTS

Commissioner Franek stated that he spoke with relators in the area regarding historic preservation education. He said that he received the suggestion to attend different realtor offices all staff meetings where he can address a large amount of realtors at the same time. The Commission also discussed trying to attend a realtor association luncheon or event. Commissioner Franek stated that he felt that the ordinance was simple enough to present to a large group where he could field specific questions.

Commissioner Graham-White noted that the Winslow house closed since the last Commission meeting. Chairman Zurowski noted that the Commission found out that the home had been purchase by a preservation architect.

Commissioner Raino-Ogden said that he has been in contact with residents from 700 William regarding potential ideas to signify the historic block. He said that he provided drawings of a monument to the residents and was going to seek a price estimate that could be presented to the Village Board of Trustees.

The Commission discussed developing an annual report for the Village Board. The Commission contemplated when this might be most appropriate and how it could be parlayed into the presentation of the historic preservation map. Commissioner Franek noted that completing an annual report was a requirement of achieving Certified Local Government status.

VI. DISCUSSION REGARDING PROPOSED RIVER FOREST HISTORIC PRESERVATION MAP

Chairman Zurowski noted that he had reviewed the Commissioner submissions that were received thus far. He stated that he felt that the group consensus was getting closer to about twenty-five properties receiving the most votes. He expressed that perhaps the homes that do not have a full write up of them could be included as a special note and, for example, organized by architect. He reiterated that he planned to divide the homes between Commissioners so that each could provide a short description of a few homes. Chairman Zurowski added that Commissioners that have not expressed their preferences for properties to include should still do so.

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The Commission discussed the possibility of shading all of the significant properties on the parcel map as well as color coding homes by notable architects.

Chairman Zurowski stated that he spoke with the Lakota Group and that they were ok with the Commission using the maps developed during the survey. Additionally, the Lakota Group could help to code and manipulate the maps for this project.

VII. OTHER BUSINESS

The next regularly scheduled meeting for the Historic Preservation Commission would be February 23, 2017. Due to conflicts with schedules, the Commission agreed to move the meeting date to February 16, 2017.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

A MOTION was made by Commissioner Franek and SECONDED by Raino-Ogden to adjourn the January 26, 2017 meeting of the Historic Preservation Commission at 7:59 p.m.

AYES: Chairman Zurowski, Commissioners Franek, Pritz, Graham-White, Prestes, and Raino-Ogden

NAYS: None.

Motion Passes.

Respectfully submitted:

Jonathan Pape
Management Analyst

Approved:

Tom Zurowski, Chairman
Historic Preservation Commission

Date