

MINUTES
June 27, 2016
Historic Preservation Commission
City of Batavia

Please **NOTE:** These minutes are not a word-for-word transcription of the statements made at the meeting, nor intended to be a comprehensive review of all discussions. They are intended to make an official record of the actions taken by the Committee/City Council, and to include some description of discussion points as understood by the minute-taker. They may not reference some of the individual attendee's comments, nor the complete comments if referenced.

1. Meeting Called to Order

Chair Bus called the meeting to order at 5:31pm.

2. Roll Call

Members Present: Chair Bus; Vice-Chair Hagemann; Commissioners Sherer, Roller and Sullivan

Members Absent: None

Also Present: Jeff Albertson, Building Commissioner; and Jennifer Austin-Smith, Recording Secretary

3. Items to be Removed, Added or Changed

There were no items to be removed, added or changed.

4. Matters From the Public (for items not on the agenda)

Chair Bus asked if there were matters from the public for items not on the agenda. There were no members from the public in the audience and therefore there were none.

5. COA Review Continuation: 12 South Van Buren Street Wall Sign Installation (Ellie Olson, applicant)

Albertson noted that the applicant was not in attendance. He stated that this building is non-contributing. Albertson stated that this was reviewed by zoning and the wall sign installation does comply with all zoning regulations. A picture of the sign and location on the building was presented to the Commission. The ornamental portion of the sign would be kept and the lower portion of the sign would be removed to fit the area. The letters are stick-on letters.

Roller would like to have a complete frame made for the sign so that the bottom of the sign does not look like it was cut off. She stated if there is a need for more room for alignment the ornamental portion of the sign could be removed. Hagemann stated that cutting off the sign and sticking it up sets a bad precedent. Sullivan stated he would be in support of having the bottom of the sign framed.

Sherer asked if this COA could be reviewed when the applicant is not present. Albertson answered that the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) could if they chose to. Bus stated that they should proceed.

Motion: To approve the COA under the condition that the bottom of the sign be framed similar to the sides even if it requires removing the curved decorative feature on the top of the frame in order for it to fit better

Maker: Sullivan

Second: Roller

Roll Call: Hagemann, Sherer, Sullivan, Roller, and Bus
5 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Absent
Motion carried.

6. Updates:

- 1. 7 East Wilson Street – Historic Inspection**
- 2. Anderson Block Building – Masonry Maintenance**
- 3. Significant Historic Building Inspection Program**
- 4. 10/12 North River Street – Historic Inspection**
- 5. 227 West Wilson Street – Historic Inspection**
- 6. 109 South Batavia Avenue – Historic Inspection**
- 7. 8 North River Street – Historic Inspection**
- 8. 16 East Wilson Street – Historic Inspection**

Albertson stated that there were no updates at this time.

7. Other Business

Bus asked if the revisions to the Design Guidelines have been submitted for approval to the City Council. Albertson stated that he would submit the approval request before the next HPC meeting.

Roller asked if there was an update on the building on Batavia Avenue with the old garage. Albertson stated that there are no updates on this.

Albertson reported that Jim Eby emailed him stated that the Shannon Hall project has started. The first layer of roofing was removed and they are working on removing the original shingles this week.

Hagemann updated that Commission on the Driehaus award. Hagemann stated that all the information has been collected. He will be meeting with them on Wednesday. There was confusion on his part regarding the deadline. He thought the deadline was July 31st but it is actually July 1st. Hagemann stated that he is doing his best to get the information submitted.

Sherer asked Albertson about the dance banner. Albertson stated that he believes that the owner would be going to adjudication.

Albertson stated that there should be some things coming before the HPC regarding a restaurant at the west end of the strip mall by Aliano's. It is all in the discussion phase.

Hagemann asked about the former Marathon station. Albertson stated that he has heard that someone is interested in purchasing the property and reopening it as a gas station. There are no concrete plans as of yet.

Sherer asked what is going into the former Stosh's building. Albertson stated that he has to schedule a meeting with the owner to get the repairs started.

Sherer asked if there was anything new on the Baptist Church. Albertson stated that they are still negotiating with a developer. Sherer asked if we could recommend that the bell tower stay. Albertson stated that the HPC could recommend keeping the bell tower but it is the City Council's final say. Bus asked if the HPC would like to have the recommendation known now so that we are not viewed as obstructionist. Bus stated that some effort should be made in the negotiation process. Hagemann stated that he would need to know more information on the project that is being proposed and whether or not it would be cost effective or if keeping the bell tower would be an economic hardship to restore it. Hagemann stated that this could be a difficult fight but we could ask and we could see what happens. Sherer asked when the building was built. Albertson answered that this building was built in 1888. Sherer stated that is worth a try. Bus stated that this is a landmark feature of a significant building and it would behoove the Commission to have some effort made to save the bell tower. He understands that the building is in terrible shape and it would take an awful lot to save the whole building.

Motion: Request that the Director of Community Development attend one of the HPC meetings to report on a feasibility study of saving the bell tower for the former church at 15 North Washington Avenue.

Maker: Sherer

Second: Roller

Voice Vote: 5 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Absent
All in favor. Motion carried.

Sherer asked about the former Blaine Street School. Albertson stated that there is some discussion on that building as well.

8. Adjournment

There being no other business to discuss, Chair Bus asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:04pm; Made by Sullivan; Seconded by Hagemann. Motion carried.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Jennifer Austin-Smith