

MINUTES
July 13, 2020
Historic Preservation Commission – Remote Meeting
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 Hohmann called the virtual meeting to order at 5:31pm. The meeting was held via GoToWebinar. Residents were welcomed to register to attend the meeting or dial into the meeting.

2. Roll Call

Members Present: Chair Hohmann (present at Council Chambers); Commissioners Krawczyk, Sherer, Saam, and Bus (phoned into the meeting at 5:56pm)

Members Absent: Vice-Chair Hagemann; Commissioner Faivre

Also Present: Scott Buening, Director of Community Development; Drew Rackow, Planner; Howard Chason, Director of Information Systems; and Jennifer Austin-Smith, Recording Secretary

3. Approval of Minutes: June 22, 2020

Motion: To approve the minutes from June 22, 2020

Maker: Saam

Second: Sherer

Roll Call Vote: **Aye:** Saam, Krawczyk, Hohmann, Sherer

Nay: None

4-0 Vote, 3 Absent. Motion carried.

4. Items to be Removed, Added or Changed

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

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

There were no matters from the public.

6. COA Review: 40 North Island Avenue

Wall Sign (PR Signs, applicant)

Rackow reported that this Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) is for a wall sign with individual letters on a raceway. This would be above the tenant space that they are now currently occupying the property. This building is non-contributing in the Historic District.

The applicant was not present. The Commission discussed whether action should be taken without the applicant present. Saam suggested acting on the item rather than making the applicant wait. She asserted it looks like the applicant is doing exactly what everyone else has done for their signage in the plaza. Sherer noted that in the past the Commission waited for the applicant to be in attendance. Saam stated that with this meeting being online there could be a multitude of reasons why the applicant could not attend the meeting, such as not being able to log on. She would hate to make someone wait, especially at this time, unless there are some problems with the COA as presented. Chair Hohmann stated that if there were questions, we could wait for the applicant but given the current circumstances we could make an exception if there are no issues with the application.

The Commission discussed how the sign meets the zoning requirements for size and location. Rackow stated that there is no issue from a zoning aspect for this particular sign.

Motion: To approve the COA as presented
Maker: Krawczyk
Second: Saam
Roll Call Vote: **Aye:** Krawczyk, Hohmann, Sherer, Saam
Nay: None
4-0 Vote, 3 Absent. Motion carried.

**7. COA Review: 107 North Batavia Avenue
Wall Sign (Signarama Aurora, applicant)**

Rackow reported that this COA is for a wall sign for the Taco Grill Restaurant located at 107 North Batavia Avenue. This location was previously occupied by Salsa Verde Restaurant. It was in late March that Taco Grill succeeded the previous business at that location. They are proposing a wall sign with the COA this evening on the front elevation, east facing elevation of the building. This building is non-contributing in the Historic District. This sign does meet the zoning requirements for size in the Zoning Code. The sign is non-illuminated aluminum panel applied directly to the building.

Krawczyk commented that the image originally sent to the Commission showed the sign higher up. Rackow stated that in the initial posting it was higher. The Zoning Code had a requirement that the sign be no closer to the top parapet than half the tallest character, so they did lower the sign and there was a revision to the posting. What is shown today is the most current version of that sign. Krawczyk asked if the sign has changed size. Rackow answered that it has not changed in size. The sign was lowered from the top of the parapet.

Motion: To approve the COA as presented
Maker: Sherer
Second: Krawczyk
Roll Call Vote: **Aye:** Sherer, Saam, Krawczyk, Hohmann
Nay: None
4-0 Vote, 3 Absent. Motion carried.

8. 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. 16 East Wilson Street – Historic Inspection**
- 7. Certified Local Government**

Rackow stated that there are no updates at this time.

9. Other Business

Rackow reported that the house located at 210 North Washington Avenue has been for sale for a few months. Rackow displayed the site map of the property for the HPC to view. He stated that staff has had a number of inquiries about the property including the question on whether the house could be demolished as well as inquiries about restoring the house. This is one of the older homes in town, built in 1844. Staff wanted to bring this to the HPC's attention in the case the HPC wanted to have a discussion on this property. Buening added that anyone could file an application for land marking this home. There is a form that is online under the Historic Preservation section of the Community Development Department site that is a basic application that could be filed with the City. Having this application filed would prevent demolition of this building.

Sherer stated that she would call Buening tomorrow and file the application because she does not want the building torn down. Buening noted that the property is such that it could be re-subdivided if the lot was sold off. Krawczyk asked if the property would be sold off in its entirety. Rackow answered without any sort of subdivision action the property would have to be sold as one lot. The Commission thanked staff for being diligent in bringing this to the Commission's attention.

Rackow noted that Commissioner Bus has joined the meeting as an attendee at 5:56pm. Chair Hohmann asked for Bus his comments on the 1844 home but there was no response due to technical difficulties.

10. Adjournment

There being no other business to discuss, Chair Hohmann asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:58pm; Made by Krawczyk; Seconded by Sherer. Motion carried.