



MINUTES

PUBLISHED BY THE AUTHORITY OF THE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION OF
BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS
REGULAR MEETING
GOVERNMENT CENTER CHAMBERS, 4TH FLOOR, ROOM #400
115 E. WASHINGTON STREET, BLOOMINGTON, IL 61701
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2021 5:00 P.M.

The Historical Preservation Commission convened in Regular Session in person with Assistant Director Kimberly Smith and Assistant City Attorney George Boyle present in the Government Center Chambers on the 4th floor, Room #400 at 5:04 p.m., Thursday, November 18, 2021.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Scharnett.

ROLL CALL

Attendee Name	Title	Status
Mr. Paul Scharnett	Chair	Present
Mr. Greg Koos	Vice Chair	Present
Ms. Georgene Chissell	Commissioner	Present
Ms. Sherry Graehling	Commissioner	Present
Ms. Dawn Peters	Commissioner	Present
Mr. George Boyle	Assistant Corporate Counsel	Present
Ms. Kimberly Smith	Assistant Economic & Community Development Director	Present
Mr. Glen Wetterow	City Planner	Absent

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

MINUTES

No minutes were available for this meeting. The minutes from the previous meeting will be reviewed and approved at the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Historic Preservation Commission.

REGULAR AGENDA

- A. BHP-27-21 Consideration, review and action on a petition submitted by Stephen W. Agge for a Certificate of Appropriateness for repairs to the box gutters, downspouts, and windows on the property located at 202 Davis Avenue (PIN: 21-03-303-005), Davis-Jefferson Historic District, late Victorian style, Four Square, c. 1913, (Ward 4).

Continued from 10/21/2021 meeting.

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- B. BHP-28-21** Consideration, review and action on a petition submitted by Stephen W. Agge for a Funk Grant in the amount of \$5,000.00 repairs to box gutters, downspouts, and windows on the property located at 202 Davis Avenue (PIN: 21-03-303-005), Davis-Jefferson Historic District, late Victorian style, Four Square, c. 1913, (Ward 4).

Continued from 10/21/2021 meeting.

Mr. Koos motioned that both items be tabled to the December 16th, 2021 Historic Preservation Commission meeting. Ms. Chissell seconded. The motion was approved by voice vote.

OLD BUSINESS

Ms. Peters asked if there was any precedence for how to proceed with a request for a grant for an asphalt roof. Mr. Scharnett stated that they were not necessarily bound to precedence and that they have the flexibility to make these decisions. However, he also stated that some consistency in their decision-making is useful for the public. Mr. Scharnett stated that he believes that a request to repair a roof that was previously asphalt shingles with more asphalt singles qualifies more as a maintenance item. Mr. Boyle stated that he did not believe this was appropriate to discuss without the client present. Mr. Scharnett agreed to move the discussion until a more appropriate time.

Ms. Peters discussed her notes on where the Commission should prioritize their efforts from the Historic Preservation Plan.

Chairperson Scharnett asked staff how the Historic Preservation grants were being tracked. Ms. Smith stated that there have recently been changes to how the grants were being tracked. Currently, staff keeps all files for each individual case together. Staff also updates an excel sheet which tracks the progress of each case. Staff plans on continuing to improve this process.

Ms. Peters discussed her progress on developing a subcommittee to focus on Section 5 of the Historic Preservation Plan.

Mr. Koos gave an update on the research toolkit. He stated that the Museum has an intern working on updating the toolkit currently, with most of the additions being focused on increased access and an increased effort to digitize records. Ms. Peters asked where the digitized resources are going to be found and who owns them. Mr. Koos stated that for the work the Museum is going, they are keeping backups on their own servers, but also providing these records to more permanent and widespread locations, like Archive.org and the State of Illinois. Ms. Peters asked for clarification on how the Commission should view work done by outside organizations in terms of the Historic Preservation Plan. Mr. Koos stated that this is where collaboration between organizations will be important for completing the Plan. Mr. Scharnett stated that he has had discussion with staff and continued discussion is still needed to determine how the work done with the Historic Preservation Plan will be disseminated and accessible to the community, especially in coordination with the City.

Ms. Graehling discussed her work for the subcommittee working on Theme 3 of the Historic Preservation Plan. She discussed her concerns that the wording in the Plan may be too lenient and is also somewhat unclear. Ms. Smith gave some clarification. Ms. Graehling noted that the Plan also states that Bloomington uses an S-4 Overlay which is uncommon for Illinois, though

more common in other states. Ms. Graehling suggests that it might be beneficial to review those ordinances to determine if they need to be updated. Mr. Scharnett asked Mr. Graehling if she has thought about who she wants to try to collaborate with to accomplish the steps in Theme 3 of the Plan. Ms. Graehling stated that she hopes to collaborate with people who have Historic Preservation and/or policy knowledge. Ms. Smith stated that she would be willing to help where she can. Mr. Boyle stated that the Commission must consider how subcommittees are communicating to ensure there are no legal issues. Mr. Boyle states that he will research the requirements. Mr. Scharnett asked Ms. Graehling if there were any other individuals or groups, she thought would be beneficial to communicate with for this work. The Old House Society was suggested. Ms. Graehling stated that she will try to have a subcommittee together by the December 16, 2021 Historic Preservation Meeting.

Mr. Scharnett discussed his work for the subcommittee working on Theme 2 of the Historic Preservation Plan. Ms. Chissell discussed some of the people she talked with for potential membership. Ms. Chissell asked for clarification on who to coordinate with for Opportunity 2.9, which suggests additional home preservation activity in the City of Bloomington's Five-Year Consolidated Action Plan. Ms. Smith stated that the grants division at the City would be appropriate. There was some discussion about clarity and flexibility of this opportunity and the Plan as a whole. Mr. Scharnett discussed the potential for using a property that the City recent came into ownership (701 W Market St) for a Rehaborama event (Opportunity 2.5 in the Plan). Discussed how to meet Open Meetings requirements without those requirements becoming overly cumbersome. Mr. Boyle will research these requirements for clarity. Ms. Smith gave a suggestion for how to move forward with this project. Mr. Scharnett discussed updating requirements for the Harriett Fuller Rust Grant (Opportunity 2.1), specifically regarding the recurring issue of funding roofing options. Discussed points of consideration for this issue.

Mr. Scharnett has had meeting with several people to determine how to survey the historical resources in Bloomington. Also stated that there have been having discussions on using GIS for this purpose. Mr. Koos discussed a tool called Ruskin. Mr. Koos and Mr. Scharnett will continue to have conversations with Mr. Wetterow to determine if this is the best tool for this project.

Mr. Scharnett discussed the White Place Steam Heating Plant and stated that some final notices about the demolition request for the property will soon be moving forward. Mr. Koss suggested an open discussion on this topic at the next Historic Preservation Commission meeting.

Mr. Koos asked if City staff that handle permitting are aware of an issue of building modifications being done that are not historically accurate, and if this is an issue of property owners modifying buildings without a permit or of permits being approved for historically inappropriate modifications. Mr. Scharnett stated that he has been working with Ms. Smith on this issue and determined that this is an issue of property owners modifying buildings with a permit. Mr. Koos stated that this issue should be discussed further. Ms. Smith stated that the Community and Economic Department of the City has already begun undergoing some changes. Firstly, they have changed the "Code Enforcement" Division to "Neighborhood Enhancement" and have hired a Neighborhood Enhancement Manager. He has been working to increase awareness of Historic Districts with the Code Enforcement Officers and new homeowners.

NEW BUSINESS

No new business items.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Peters motioned to adjourn. Mr. Koos seconded. Voice Vote - All were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 7:22 PM.