



City of La Porte Historic Preservation Commission Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, January 17, 2024 at 5:30 PM
City Hall, Council Chambers, 801 Michigan Avenue

A meeting of the City of La Porte Historic Preservation Commission ("Commission") was held at City Hall Council Chambers, 801 Michigan Avenue, La Porte, IN, 46350 on Wednesday, January 17, 2024 at 5:30 P.M. ("Local Time"), pursuant to notice duly given in accordance with the rules of the Commission and the Indiana Open Door Law.

This meeting was called to order at 5:33 PM by Sallie LaRocco, Chair.

On call of the roll, the members of the Commission were shown to be present or absent as follows:

MEMBERS PRESENT: Sallie LaRocco, Fonda Owens, Jeanne Rafaj, Maggie Caviston, Cassandra Redeagle, and Bruce Johnson (Advisory Member)

MEMBERS ABSENT: April Hacker.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS: Cassandra Redeagle made a motion to nominate the current slate of officers listed as Sallie LaRocco, Chair; Bruce Johnson, Vice Chair; and Fonda Owens, Treasurer. There was discussion about the Vice Chair position. The motion was seconded by Maggie Caviston. The motion passed 5-0.

GUESTS PRESENT: David Heinold, Deb Parcell (arrived at 5:58 pm), Laura Konieczny, and Drew Buchanan

MINUTES: Sallie explained that the Christmas cards were not sent out last month and that this was removed from the December meeting minutes. A motion was made by Maggie Caviston to approve the October 17 and December 13, 2023 meeting minutes and the motion was seconded by Jeanne Rafaj. The motion passed 5-0.

CORRESPONDENCE REPORTS (CLAIMS, COAs, Demolition Reports): David provided the board members a copy of the 2023 COA report for annual review.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: Cassandra Redeagle mentioned that the pamphlets are ready to go for distribution to designated property owners. Jeanne and Bruce will work on distributing the pamphlets designated property owners. Jeanne will work on updating the inventory of homes that are designated with information from a survey. Fonda did not have any budget updates this month.

OLD BUSINESS: Bruce Johnson mentioned that the board will need to think about coloring book printing and distribution this spring. The board will need to work on the sponsor list and contributions to cover the cost of printing the coloring book for distribution this spring.

NEW BUSINESS:

- A. New member welcome and introductions – Drew Buchanan introduced himself as the new City Council liaison for the Historic Preservation Commission. Sallie mentioned that April Hacker could not make this meeting, but is the newest board member.
- B. Indiana Avenue Reconstruction Project coordination – David explained a few grant opportunities the board may want to pursue for potential projects and also mentioned that the City received contact information for Botti Studio to look into a possible project coordination. Deb arrived during this discussion at 5:58 pm. Sallie explained the Indiana Avenue Reconstruction Project and the potential opportunities for projects that the board could work on completion for historic district identification. The board was interested in pursuing grant opportunities for historic district identification and other project ideas with assistance from the City.
- C. Plaques for Designated Properties – No update.
- D. Events and Outreach – Sallie explained that the board has two properties interested in local designation this year. The board discussed printing notecards in the amount of up to \$150. Cassandra Redeagle made a motion to approve printing HPC notecards in the amount up to \$150 and the motion was seconded by Maggie Caviston. The motion passed 5-0. Maggie mentioned that she will work on planning for a spring gathering.
- E. Appointment of HPC member to Downtown Design Review Committee – David explained that the board will need to nominate a member to serve on the Downtown Design Review Committee that reviews development plans for the downtown area. Jeanne expressed interest in continuing to serve on the Committee. Maggie Caviston made a motion to nominate Jeanne Rafaj to serve on the Downtown Design Review Committee and the motion was seconded by Cassandra Redeagle. The motion passed 5-0.

HEARING OF VISITORS: Laura Konieczny thanked the HPC for the last three years as the City Council liaison.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Deb Parcell mentioned that Indiana Landmarks is working on developing roundtable commission meetings with other HPCs this year. Deb provided an update that she is working on developing workshops in partnership with La Porte, Michigan City, Crown Point, Hobart, and Valparaiso. She mentioned that the goal is to have an event planned by next month.

There being no further discussion, a motion was made by Maggie Caviston to adjourn and the motion was seconded by Cassandra Redeagle. The meeting adjourned at 6:32 PM.



Historic Preservation Commission Chair



Attest