



City of La Porte Historic Preservation Commission Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, August 19, 2025 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 Tuesday, August 19, 2025 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 5:30 PM by Sallie LaRocco, Chair.

The board recited the pledge of allegiance along with individuals in attendance.

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, Bruce Johnson, Christa Hurley-King (virtual), and Peter Steele.

MEMBERS ABSENT: None.

GUESTS PRESENT: David Heinold, Drew Buchanan, Mary Ann Richards, and Deb Parcell.

MINUTES: Fonda Owens made a motion to **approve the meeting minutes from June 17, 2025 and July 15, 2025**. The motion was seconded by Peter Steele. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed 4-0.

CORRESPONDENCE REPORTS (CLAIMS, COAs, Demolition Reports): None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- A. Sunflower Fair booth – Christa mentioned that she is planning the booth and will have an update at the next meeting before the Sunflower Fair on September 20th.

OLD BUSINESS:

- A. HPC Educational Workshop Planning – Deb is working on the date and availability of a presenter for the workshop. Bruce mentioned Mike Belzowski would be a good opportunity for a workshop. Peter mentioned that Tim Schweizer would be a presentation opportunity.

NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Section 106 Review – Installation of a new elevator in the La Porte Civic Auditorium located at 1001 Ridge Street – Mary Ann Richards explained the review process for the installation of a new elevator in the La Porte Civic Auditorium and is requesting concurrence from the HPC as part of the Section 106 Review process. Fonda Owens made a motion to **concur with the findings for installation of a new elevator in the La Porte Civic Auditorium located at 1001 Ridge Street** and Peter Steele seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed 4-0.
- B. At-risk properties discussion – Sallie explained that she is looking for the board to contribute to gathering a list of at-risk properties in the city for discussion at the next meeting. There was discussion about a few properties to add to the list of at-risk properties among the board members.
- C. HPC Educational Session – Deb mentioned that she is working on an educational session for messaging on windows for later this year. Deb presented a session on defensible motions for commissions.
- D. Train station candlelight tour – Sallie explained that there is an opportunity to provide tours of the train depot and the commission can assist with facilitation of the tour setup.

HEARING OF VISITORS: Councilman Drew Buchanan mentioned that he likes the discussion about the at-risk properties. He explained that the board should express caution with property addresses on the at-risk properties list without notification to the property owners from the HPC. Drew mentioned that he likes the discussion about educational workshops on what the HPC is and what we do.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Sallie announced that the Preserving Historic Places is next month and all the members are planning to attend except for Fonda. Bruce mentioned that he is on the America 250 committee and they are looking for local activity ideas for next year to celebrate. One idea for discussion was having a concert at the Civic Auditorium to honor the special year.

There being no further discussion, a motion was made by Peter Steele to adjourn and the motion was seconded by Fonda Owens. The meeting adjourned at 6:21 PM.


Historic Preservation Commission Chair


Attest