

ELGIN HERITAGE COMMISSION

Tuesday, September 7, 2021
7:00pm

City Council Chambers, 2nd Floor North Tower
150 Dexter Court, Elgin, IL 60120

AGENDA

- A. Call Meeting to Order and Roll Call
- B. Approval of Minutes
 - 1. August 3, 2021
- C. Recognize Persons Present
- D. Plaque Applications
 - None
- E. Old Business
 - 1. Reports from Neighborhood Groups on Heritage Related Activities
 - 2. 2021 Elgin Heritage Commission Goals
 - a. Historic Resources Survey
 - (i) Update on Midwest Neighborhood Part 1
 - b. Spring-Douglas Historic District Walking Tour
 - (i) Cost Estimate Review
 - c. Elgin Historic District and Landmark Design Guidelines (*no update*)
 - d. Future Commission Board Ideas
 - e. Design Review Subcommittee – Updates
- F. New Business
 - 1. Elgin Heritage Commission Budget
- G. Other Business
- H. Adjournment

THE CITY OF ELGIN IS SUBJECT TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT OF 1990. INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES WHO PLAN TO ATTEND THIS MEETING AND WHO REQUIRED CERTAIN ACCOMMODATIONS IN ORDER TO ALLOW THEM TO OBSERVE AND/OR PARTICIPATE IN THIS MEETING, OR WHO HAVE QUESTIONS REGARDING THE ACCESSIBILITY OF THE MEETING OR THE FACILITIES, ARE REQUESTED TO CONTACT THE HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT, ADA COORDINATOR AT (847) 931-5620 {TDD (847) 931-5616} PROMPTLY TO ALLOW THE CITY OF ELGIN TO MAKE REASONABLE ACCOMMODATIONS FOR THOSE PERSONS.

City of Elgin
Elgin Heritage Commission
August 3, 2021

Proposed Minutes

- A.** The meeting of the Elgin Heritage Commission was called to order at 7:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers by Chairman John Marston.
1. **Members Present:** Rebecca Hunter, Len Govednik, John Wiedmeyer, Marge Rowe, Scott Savel, Brian Anderson, and John Marston.
 2. **Members Absent:** John Regan
 3. **City Staff Present:** Christen Sundquist, Historic Preservation Planner
- B. Approval of Minutes:**
1. *A motion was made by Commissioner Wiedmeyer to approve the June 1, 2021 minutes as submitted. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Anderson. The motion passed unanimously.*
- C. Recognize Persons Present:** None
- D. Plaque applications:** None
- E. Old Business**
1. Reports from Neighborhood Groups on Heritage Related Activities
 - a. Commissioner Rowe noted to the commission that the Lords Park Zoo's last day will be held on August 13, 2021. She noted that the zoo has held 38 programs and around 11,000 people have come to visit.
 - b. Commissioner Rowe noted that native plants were planted at the Nancy Kimball House (302 W. Chicago Street); the interior stairs have been painted by Dan and Pat Miller; Dan Jensen of Habitat for Humanity will be installing the soffits; and the Seigle Family donated kitchen cabinets.
 - c. Commissioner Rowe noted that the Elgin History Museum is creating new exhibit on Elgin's environmental history and will be looking at partnership with the Sustainability Commission and the Elgin Heritage Commission.
 - d. Commissioner Rowe also stated that recently on Friday, July 30th, Ernie Broadnax was honored and recognized from the State of Illinois and the City of Elgin for his many contributions to the city. The ceremony was held in front of the Elgin History Museum and it was very well attended.
 - e. Commissioner Hunter noted that the Northeast Neighborhood Association will be hosting a garage sale this upcoming Friday, August 6th through Sunday, August 8th and encouraged the commissioners to attend.
 2. 2021 Elgin Heritage Commission Goals
 - a. Historic Resources Survey
Staff gave an update on the Midwest Neighborhood Part 1 survey noting that 10

- blocks out of 22 have been surveyed. She noted that there are many significant and contributing properties in this area and that once the fieldwork is complete, Commissioner Hunter and staff will be starting research and compiling the information into a document. It will likely be completed on or before June 2022.
- b. Spring-Douglas Historic District Walking Tour
The Commissioners were given a cost estimate by a local graphic designer. They noted that they would like to see another cost estimate to compare and ensure that the price is reasonable as it does not include printing costs.
 - c. Elgin Historic District and Landmark Design Guidelines
No update.
 - d. Future Commission Board Ideas
Chairman Marston noted that the commission needs to get their name out there more which led to moving onto New Business where discussion continued.

F. New Business

1. Elgin Heritage Commission Budget
 - a. Name Tags – Cost Estimate Review
Staff noted that she received a quote from Andersens that a magnetic metal badge with the commissioner's names and the city logo with Heritage Commission imprinted on it would cost \$10/each. The Commissioners noted that this would be appropriate to have made as it will help spark conversations while at volunteer activities such as the housewalk and cemetery walk.

*A motion was made by Commissioner Savel to create name tags for the Heritage and Design Review Subcommittee commissioners at \$10/each in the gold color.
The motion was seconded by Commissioner Rowe.
The motion passed unanimously.*
 - b. Memberships – NAPC and Landmarks Illinois
*A motion was made by Commissioner Savel to approve membership renewal for the National Alliance of Preservation Commissions and Landmarks Illinois at a cost of \$200 total.
The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hunter.
The motion passed unanimously.*
 - c. Chairman Marston also noted that to get the Heritage Commission's name more visible to the public, he suggested that the commission sponsor upcoming events that are related to the commission's mission. This includes the Gifford Park Association's Annual Housewalk and the Elgin History Museum's Cemetery Walk. Commissioner Rowe noted that the housewalk is more in line with the Heritage Commission's goals and suggested that every other year the commission sponsor one or the other. The commission agreed but also noted that they will look at sponsoring the cemetery walk at the next meeting.

A motion was made by Commissioner Anderson to sponsor the Gifford Park

*Association's 2021 Annual Housewalk at an amount of \$250.
The motion was seconded by Commissioner Savel.
The motion passed unanimously.*

G. Other Business

- a. Commissioner Hunter noted that her and Commissioner Anderson can look into creating a board to display at the Gail Borden Public Library that shows before and afters for previous grant projects, cameos of the commissioner members, and possibly posters of past work. She noted that this could bring more awareness of this commission and what they do for the city.
- b. Chairman Marston noted that he was offered to have the commission take a tour of the rehabilitation work at 15 N. Grove (previously the Gasthaus). He stated that the commissioners can contact him directly and he can set up multiple times for the tour.
- c. Chairman Marston noted that the previous Wednesday, City Council failed with a 5-4 vote to purchase the David C. Cook property which would have saved the main building from demolition. The commission noted that now is the time to move on from the loss but to now concentrate on the salvage of iconic pieces. It was noted that Elizabeth Marston of the Elgin History Museum is leading this effort and is hopeful the city will help step in to save some pieces for future education and to save some of its history from going into the landfill.

H. Adjournment

A motion was made by Commissioner Rowe to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hunter and passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Christen Sundquist, Historic Preservation Planner
Community Development Department

Approved: