

: OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS :**: OF THE CITY OF PEORIA, ILLINOIS :**

Room 400, Peoria, Illinois, June 22, 2011, a Historic Preservation Commission Meeting was held this date at 8:30 A.M., at City Hall, 419 Fulton Street, Chairperson Robert Powers presiding.

ROLL CALL

Roll call showed the following Historic Preservation Commission Members were present: Hall, Herold, Masick, Powers, Ruckriegel, Smith - 6; Absent: Joseph - 1.

Staff Present: Kimberly Smith and Trina Bonds

MINUTES

Commissioner Herold moved to approve the minutes of the May 25, 2011 Historic Preservation Commission meeting (as outlined); seconded by Commissioner Masick.

Approved by viva voce vote.

Yeas: Hall, Herold, Masick, Powers, Ruckriegel, Smith – 6;

Nays: None;

Abstention: None.

Ms. Bonds swore in the public speakers that wished to give testimony today.

Chairperson Powers explained the procedures of the Commission. He also gave an overview of the Certificate of Appropriateness Finding of Facts Worksheet.

PETITIONS, REMONSTRANCES, AND COMMUNICATIONS- THE CITY OF PEORIA

(HPC 11-15) PUBLIC HEARING on the request of Raphael and Kathryn Rodolfi for a *Certificate of Appropriateness* to make various repairs and to replace a garage door at 1017 W. Moss Avenue.

Ms. Smith introduced the case and gave a power point presentation. She reported that the petitioner was not present to provide public testimony.

Commissioners Herold and Ruckriegel both agreed that the application was very detailed and thorough. They both stated that they were supportive of the request.

During brief comments, Chairperson Powers pointed out that many of the items requested pertain to regular maintenance.

There being no public testimony, Chairperson Powers closed the public hearing.

Motion

Commissioner Herold moved to approve Case No. HPC 11-15, per the submitted request; pursuant to the Certificate of Appropriateness Finding of Facts Worksheet; seconded by Commissioner Masick.

Motion **APPROVED** by viva voce vote.

Yeas: Hall, Herold, Joseph, Masick, Powers, Smith - 6;

Nays: None;

Abstention: None.

(HPC 11-16) PUBLIC HEARING on the request of Chris and Kasey Wise for a *Certificate of Appropriateness* to alter the front porch at 1310 N. Bigelow Street.

Chairperson Powers reported that he will be abstaining from discussion and the vote for Case No. HPC 11-16 due to a conflict of interest.

Ms. Smith introduced the case and gave a power point presentation for the Commission. She reported that the case was withdrawn at last month's meeting to allow the petitioner time to work with the neighborhood. She explained that the new request is similar to original minus the lattice.

Chris Wise, Property Owner, reported that the original front porch will be restored to how it was previously before the enclosure. He explained that the porch was enclosed for a walk-in closet. He stated that it was a poor choice and he is now trying to make everyone happy by returning it back to an open porch.

Margaret Cousin, Historic Preservationist, asked for clarification on the request.

Mr. Wise briefly described the request in more detail. He reported that he will be keeping the existing beams running vertical to allow the space to be opened back up as it was originally. He then stated that he would like to exclude the screen that was once there.

In discussion with Vice-Chair Smith, Mr. Wise explained that the two inside columns are very old and stated that if he is able he will take them down and put them back up. He went on to say that at this time he is focusing on what he did not do correctly the first time.

During more discussion, Commissioner Masick commented about requirements to have a railing on the steps, and stated that Mr. Wise could amend his application. Mr. Wise explained that there had never been a railing on those steps, but stated he is willing to do whatever it takes to make everyone happy.

There being no public testimony, Vice-Chair Smith closed the public hearing.

Motion

Commissioner Ruckriegel moved to approve Case No. HPC 11-16 per the request to allow for the non-screened porch, including the railings and columns as presented; pursuant to the Certificate of Appropriateness Finding of Facts Worksheet; seconded by Commissioner Herold.

Motion **APPROVED** by viva voce vote.

Yeas: Hall, Herold, Joseph, Masick, Smith - 5;

Nays: None;

Abstention: Powers -1.

(HPC 11-07) CONTINUED DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION per City Council direction (Council Item Number 11-069) to explore incentives.

Ms. Smith gave a brief overview regarding the following three general incentives previously discussed and voted on:

1. State and local sales tax rebate program
2. Property tax freeze program
3. Grants related to public realm and private residences

Ms. Smith reported that the Historic Preservation Commission recognized that tax rebate and freeze programs may be difficult given the City and School District's current budgets, and decided to focus on exploring grants related to the public realm and private residences. She stated that this entailed possible use of Community Development Block Grants, and Staff indicated more information would be provided at the next meeting. She stated in the past few weeks, the City of Peoria received official notification that the current 2011 funding would be cut by 17%, therefore, this option was also not recommended.

Ms. Smith reported that in the meantime, the following two State and Federal level items may increase opportunities for incentives and should be tracked for applicability:

1. Pending amendment to Senate Bill 2168: Adds Peoria to the River Edge Communities (Aurora, East St. Louis, and Rockford). It will offer a 25% State tax credit beginning in January, and ending in 2017, that may be used in addition to the 20% Federal income tax credit. This was passed by both houses but not yet sent to the Governor.
2. Possible amendment to Community Restoration and Revitalization Act (HR 3715), to be name *Creating American Prosperity Through Preservation*: Would improve the historic rehabilitation tax credit program by increasing the credit to 30%, and making it easier to apply to smaller projects. This is anticipated to be introduced by Congressman Aaron Schock on June 23, 2011.

During further discussion, Commissioner Ruckriegel suggested that the Commission send correspondence out to Neighborhood Associations to keep them informed regarding pending amendments.

Ms. Smith informed the Commission that Staff could forward communication to Neighborhood Associations by email.

REQUEST TO RECEIVE AND FILE:

- Report from Staff regarding Administrative Certificates of Appropriateness issued.
- Report from Staff regarding enforcement case status.

Motion

After brief comments, Commissioner Masick moved **to approve** the request to receive and file Case No. HPC 11-07 and Staff Reports; seconded by Commissioner Ruckriegel.

Motion **APPROVED** by viva voce vote.

Yeas: Hall, Herold, Masick, Powers, Ruckriegel, Smith - 6;

Nays: None;

Abstention: None.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments were presented for discussion.

ADJOURNMENT

The June 22, 2011 Historic Preservation Commission meeting adjourned at approximately 8:58 A.M.

Kimberly Smith, AICP, Senior Urban Planner

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