

**HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
MINUTES
City of Geneva - City Hall
109 James Street, Geneva, Illinois**

January 20, 2009

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Roy called the Historic Preservation Commission meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. at Geneva City Hall, 109 James Street, Geneva, Illinois.

ROLL CALL

Present HPC: Chairman Roy, Commissioners Adams, Andersson, Bruno, Gallagher, Hiller
Absent: Commissioner Tom Hansen
Others Present: HPC Planner Kaulfuss; Recording Secretary Celeste Weilandt
Roll call followed and a quorum was established.

MEETING MINUTES

November 18, 2008 Meeting Minutes – minutes were approved on motion by Commissioner Hiller, seconded by Commissioner Bruno. Motion carried by voice vote of 6-0.

BUILDING PERMIT APPLICATION REVIEWS

216 James Street - Pat Delp – Signs

Applicant, Mr. William Delp, stated he and his wife own the property at 216 James Street, also known as Designers Desk needlepoint. Mr. Delp and his wife, were seeking approval of signs (illustrated on page two of packet dated 1/16/09) that were previously installed without HPC review or building permit. Mr. Delp indicated that he expects to add two light fixtures to externally illuminate the sign. Commissioner Hiller suggested walking Third Street to identify fixture examples. Commissioner Bruno suggested placing spotlights on top of the porch roof and directing them upward to the sign. Andersson favored the spotlights if they were not visible from the street level. Per a question regarding the porch roof, Mr. Delp recalled that the existing decorations are located on top of the porch roof and that he was not sure of the depth of the roof. As to the smaller sign on the ell portion of the building, Mr. Delp said that it would be removed until the eastern portion of the lot is officially a parking lot. Kaulfuss offered to provide staff review of the proposed lighting. Commissioners also suggested that a free-standing sign could be installed. Commissioner Andersson moved to approve the application, as presented, for 216 James Street/Designer Desk, with one sign. Seconded by Commissioner Bruno.

ROLL CALL

Y ADAMS Y ANDERSSON Y BRUNO Y GALLAGHER Y HILLER Y ROY

MOTION CARRIED: VOTE 6-0

Dialog followed by Kaulfuss that the applicant did not need a permit for exterior lighting as it was part of the sign review process. Commissioner Andersson amended her motion to approve the application, as presented, for 216 James Street/Designer Desk, with one sign, and for staff to approve exterior sign lighting. Seconded by Commissioner Bruno.

ROLL CALL

Y ADAMS Y ANDERSSON Y BRUNO Y GALLAGHER Y HILLER Y ROY

MOTION CARRIED: VOTE

STAFF UPDATE & PROJECT LIST

Planner Kaulfuss announced the city planner is currently working on revising the city's sign ordinance.

Kaulfuss called attention to a list of priority projects she created and asked the commissioners to prioritize them and fax them to her.

Kaulfuss announced that Preservation Partners is interested in collaborating with the Historic Preservation Commission again for Preservation Month (May). Adams and Gallagher volunteered to assist with activities. As to completing the city's Design Guidelines, Andersson and Chairman Roy volunteered to assist. Kaulfuss envisioned the guidelines as a useful document, downloadable, and user-friendly.

Lastly, as to holding a joint meeting with the city council and the HPC, Kaulfuss shared the discussion she had with the City Administrator as to when to hold the meeting, i.e., March, 2009. Some commissioners felt the meeting should be held in May 2008 during Preservation Month, as a kick-off to the month. Kaulfuss was not sure if the City Administrator would okay waiting until May. Per a question, she reminded the commissioners the issue was that the HPC could designate a landmark without owner consent, which some city council members felt was a property rights issue. Kaulfuss stated that Landmarks Illinois has information on its website about owner consent and stated that out of 42 communities surveyed, 10 communities required owner consent, which she felt was a strong statement. Bruno relayed the charter of this commission was to focus on issues for the greater good of the community as opposed to individual rights. Kaulfuss also pointed out that the city's guidelines within the Strategic Plan addressed historic preservation and the fact that under that document, the HPC had the responsibility of maintaining those points.

Dialog followed on how Kaulfuss reminded the Commissioners that the current landmarking process calls for the approval of City Council and the Mayor. Commissioners discussed the importance of this topic, especially during Preservation Month and the fact that the joint meeting allowed City Council members and HPC Commissioners to meet face to face. Commissioners asked Kaulfuss to research what other topics City Council wanted to address prior to the joint meeting.

Updates followed on the Stackman case. Kaulfuss mentioned that Mr. Abraham, an owner on Ford and Sixth Streets, has retained the same attorney as Mr. Stackman regarding his potential case.

Lastly, Kaulfuss provided an update on a Peyton house which was being pursued through the Code Enforcement Department. She believes the owner is letting the property deteriorate by demolition by neglect. She stated the city's ordinance has no provision addressing demolition by neglect.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Historic Preservation Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m. on motion by Bruno, seconded by Gallagher. Motion carried unanimously.