



City of La Porte Historic Preservation Commission Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, April 18, 2023 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, April 18, 2023 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 5:39 PM by Dr. Anna Weissman, Acting Chair.

The board recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dr. Anna Weissman, Ms. Fonda Owens, Ms. Jeanne Rafaj, Ms. Sallie LaRocco, Ms. Cassandra Redeagle, Ms. Maggie Caviston, and Mr. Bruce Johnson (Advisory Member).

MEMBERS ABSENT: Ms. Jo Happel.

GUESTS PRESENT: Mr. David Heinold, Ms. Deb Parcell, City Councilwoman Laura Konieczny.

MINUTES: Jeanne Rafaj made a motion to **approve the March 21, 2023 meeting minutes** and the motion was seconded by Fonda Owens. The motion passed 6-0.

CORRESPONDENCE REPORTS (CLAIMS, COAs, Demolition Reports):

- A. Application for Single Site Designation: 1209 Michigan Avenue – Dr. George L. Andrew and Catherine Piatt Andrew House
Anna read the description for the single site designation request. Deb read the staff report and recommendation for the single site designation request. Catherine Abbs and Christopher Evans, property owners of 1209 Michigan Avenue, spoke in favor of the request to designate 1209 Michigan Avenue as a Single Site Historic District. Catherine explained the history of the house and requested from the board a favorable recommendation for designation of their house as a local landmark. Anna called for public testimony. There was no further public testimony on this request. Anna closed the floor to public testimony. Jeanne Rafaj made a motion to **recommend approval of the single site designation for 1209 Michigan Avenue** and the motion was seconded by Sallie LaRocco. The motion passed 6-0.

- B. Application for Single Site Designation: 1302 Jackson Street – Grischow House
Jeanne Rafaj announced that she will be recusing herself from this item. Anna read the description for the single site designation request. Deb read the staff report and recommendation for the single site designation request. Jeanne and John Rafaj, property owners of 1302 Jackson Street, were present for the single site designation request to designate 1302 Jackson Street as a single site historic district. Jeanne explained that they are invested in this house and request this local designation to support the work that they have done on the house at 1302 Jackson Street. Cassandra Redeagle made a motion to **recommend approval of the single site designation for 1302 Jackson Street** and the motion was seconded by Sallie LaRocco. The motion passed 5-0, Jeanne Rafaj abstained.

Deb explained the COA process to homeowners for the two single site designations in advance of the COA agenda items.

- C. COA: 1012 Monroe Street – replace shingles on house and detached garage (**staff approval**)
Deb read the staff report for replacing shingles on the house and detached garage that was staff approved.
- D. COA: 1012 Monroe Street – add gutters on house and detached garage (**HPC review requested**)
Deb read the staff report for installing gutters on the house and detached garage. The board discussed the request to install gutters on the house and detached garage. Sallie LaRocco made a motion to **approve the COA to add gutters on the house and detached garage** and the motion was seconded by Fonda Owens. The motion passed 6-0.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: None.

OLD BUSINESS:

- A. New members welcome: Cassandra Redeagle and Maggie Caviston
Cassandra Redeagle introduced herself to the Commission. Maggie Caviston introduced herself to the Commission.
- B. HPC 101 – Deb Parcell provided a training for the HPC with a powerpoint presentation.
- C. Tri-fold brochure printing issue – Anna explained that there was an issue with printing the tri-fold brochures. The board discussed options for printing the brochures. Fonda Owens made a motion to **authorize printing brochures and economic information in the amount not to exceed \$250** and the motion was seconded by Cassandra Redeagle. The motion passed 6-0.

Anna explained that the coloring books schedule will need to be developed for procuring sponsors to print the coloring books for the upcoming year. Hawkins Print Shop will print the sponsors in the book once the board has the sponsor list and logos. Bruce explained that fundraising for printing the coloring books is completed in May to allow for setting the schedule to print over the summer for distributing the coloring books to the schools in August. Anna made a motion to **nominate Sallie LaRocco to the Coloring Book Committee** and the motion was seconded by Maggie Caviston. The motion passed 6-0. The board discussed that the fundraising efforts should be between \$1,200 and \$1,400 to allow for printing the coloring books for the schools.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Election of New Officers for 2023 – Chair and Vice Chair

Anna made a motion **nominate Sallie LaRocco as Chair for 2023** and the motion was seconded by Cassandra Redeagle. The motion passed 6-0. The board discussed that Bruce Johnson will retain the Vice-Chair position for 2023 that was approved at the previous meeting in a non-voting advisory board member role. Bruce Johnson departed the meeting at 7:20 pm.

B. Nomination for Member to Serve on Downtown Design Review Committee

Sallie LaRocco made a motion to **nominate Jeanne Rafaj to serve on the Downtown Design Review Committee** and the motion was seconded by Anna Weissman. The motion passed 6-0.

C. National Register of Historic Places nomination: 706 West 11th Street – (*national register process update only*)

D. Update on Building Department online permitting and locally-designated home flags for permit applications – David provided an update that all of the locally-designated homes have been added to the City's new online permitting system, OpenGov, that is available on the City's website at www.cityoflaporte.com. David has published the online COA application form on the OpenGov permitting site for homeowners and contractors.

Jeanne provided the Commission members with a handout regarding developing a plan for new signage in the historic districts. Jeanne and Cassandra will report on this item at next month's meeting.


HEARING OF VISITORS: None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: None.

There being no further discussion, Sallie LaRocco made a motion to **adjourn the meeting** and the motion was seconded by Jeanne Rafaj. The motion passed 6-0. The meeting adjourned at 7:30 PM.



Historic Preservation Commission President
Chair



Attest