

**VILLAGE OF HUNTLEY
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION MEETING
Tuesday, April 22, 2014
MINUTES**

5 CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Donna Britton called to order the regularly scheduled meeting of the Village of Huntley Historic Preservation Commission for Tuesday, April 22, 2014 at 6:02 pm in the Village Board Room, located at 10987 Main Street, Huntley, Illinois 60142. The room is handicap accessible.

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ROLL CALL - ATTENDANCE

MEMBERS PRESENT: Commissioners Geri Rizzo, Jake Marino, Deb Waters, and Diana Carpenter, Vice-Chair Lonni Oldham and Chairperson Donna Britton

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MEMBERS ABSENT: Commissioner Karen Langhenry

ALSO PRESENT: Director of Development Services Charles Nordman and Planner James Williams

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PUBLIC COMMENT There were no public comments.

4. Approval of Minutes

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A. A MOTION was made to approve the March 18, 2014 Historic Preservation Commission Meeting Minutes with the following corrections:

Page 1, Line 39, replace "raised no specific objections." with "had no specific comments."

Page 1, Line 45, replace "Staff " with "Staff's"

Page 2, Line 35, replace "fashion" with "fashioned"

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MOVED: Commissioner Rizzo

SECONDED: Commissioner Waters

AYES: Commissioners Rizzo, Marino, Waters, and Carpenter, Vice-Chair Oldham and Chairperson Britton

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NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED 6:0:0

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5. Old Business

A. Discussion - 2014 Work Plan

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Chairperson Britton and Commissioner Carpenter provided an overview of their meetings with the Village Board of Trustees members on Wednesday, April 16, 2014. Their first meeting was with Trustee Niko Kanakaris, he suggested that the Historic Preservation Commission reach out to the downtown businesses to offer assistance with the proposed façade improvement program.

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Director Nordman stated that he has met with some of the downtown business owners and that they are excited about the facade improvement program.

Turning to the meeting Chairperson Britton and Commissioner Carpenter had with Village Board of Trustees members John Piwko and JR Westberg later in the afternoon of Wednesday, April 16th, Commissioner Carpenter

mentioned that the discussion included her noting that historic preservation increased property values and that Trustee Piwko questioned that this was true. Commissioner Carpenter stated that she would provide literature substantiating the positive influence of historic preservation on property values and provide that information to Staff in order for it to be forwarded on to the Village Board members.

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Chairperson Britton noted that Trustee Westberg offered his opinion of the importance of teaching children the value of historic preservation and encouraged the Historic Preservation Commission to have a presence at both the Fall Fest and Business Expo events with the Village.

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Chairperson Britton stated that all of the Trustees were in favor of messages on the digital sign at Route 47 and Main and the promotion of historic preservation through messages in the water billing and e-mail newsletters as well.

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Chairperson Britton also suggested that it may be helpful to provide monthly updates of the Historic Preservation Commission's activities in the Village Board members' meeting packets at the request of Village Board members.

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In regard to the proposed use of the renovated Hackett House, Chairperson Britton stated that the Trustees had discussed the possible use of the building and Director Nordman pointed out that there have not been any specific decisions made on how the property would be restored and/or how the building would be used when it becomes available.

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Commissioner Marino reviewed historical photographs of the downtown square area he had collected as well as some recent photos he had taken that indicated that there are businesses along the south side of the square that may include older facades behind siding.

Chairperson Britton requested that Staff provide these photos to Trustee Kanakaris for his review.

B. Discussion – Historic Survey Request Letter

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Chairperson Britton noted that at last month's Historic Preservation Commission meeting Staff was going to determine the number of structures contained within the proposed historic survey area and she asked if they had arrived at this figure.

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Planner Williams stated that there are 240 properties within the proposed historic survey area.

C. Discussion – Art Contest /May 24, 2014 Farmers Market Exhibit

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Chairperson Britton stated that she had requested use of the Old Village Hall exhibit space from the Huntley Chamber of Commerce for that Saturday, May 24th. Additionally, Chairperson Britton noted that the Historic Preservation Commission will have a booth on Coral Street near the Old Village Hall and that she has arranged for use of the Village's PA equipment for use with the Art Contest proceedings.

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Commissioner Rizzo noted that she has been in contact with the TCF Branch Manager and arranged for the donation of funds for art contest prizes and she also stated that she very happy with the promotion of the art contest through the various resources.

Additionally, Commissioner Rizzo asked Staff if there was storage space available for any unused paint canvases and illustration boards and Director Nordman assured her that there is space available for the storage of these items.

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D. Discussion – 2014 Pride in Preservation Award

Chairperson Britton recalled that the discussion at last month's meeting included inviting the property owner at 11210 Myrtle Street to attend the next Huntley Historic Preservation Commission meeting scheduled for Tuesday, May 20, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. to bestow the 2014 Pride in Preservation Award and discuss the potential for a historic designation of the property.

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Discussion ensued including Commissioner Rizzo volunteering to bring snacks for the May 24th meeting and water would be provided by Village Staff. Additionally, Chairperson Britton suggested inviting the Mayor, Village Board members and the Village Manager.

10 Planner Williams stated that he believes a Pride in Preservation sign is going to be available to provide to the 11210 Myrtle-property owners and will have a Pride in Preservation award certificate similar to the certificate provided to previous award-recipient property owners.

15 Commissioner Marino stated that he had spoken with property owners at 11109 S. Myrtle Street which was also discussed as a Pride in Preservation award nominee and that those property owners seemed interested in the program and they potentially could be included as part of the program later this year.

Chairperson Britton requested discussion under *Old Business* of the following item:

20 Hackett House

Chairperson Britton reminded the Historic Preservation Commission of the importance of considering alternatives for the use of this property to offer as suggestions to the Village Board as part of the future consideration of the use of the property.

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6. New Business

A. Sawyer-Kelley Mill Survey/Inventory – *on-site* Thursday, April 24, 2014 at 9:00 a.m.

30 Vice-Chair Oldham pointed out that she intends to use a checklist based on the McHenry County Historic Society's to assist with the inventory of the property on April 24th.

35 Chairperson Britton reminded the Historic Preservation Commission that the intent of the survey work that day will include inventory and documentation of the building outside and inside, collection of artifacts to be used for a purpose that serves the community and earmark items for potential salvage later and/or when the property is indeed razed in the future. Additionally, Chairperson Britton hoped that the process would serve as a template for streamlining the inventory/survey of properties in the future.

40 B. Downtown Streetscape Plan Review

Director Nordman reviewed a PowerPoint presentation outlining the proposed streetscape plan pointing out that this plan based primarily upon the Downtown Revitalization Plan approved in the fall of 2010. Director Nordman noted that proposed streetscape plan includes unifying themes and elements including brick cross walks, benches, trash receptacles, reconfigured parking, new parking areas and utility relocations.

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Additionally, Director Nordman pointed out that the façade improvement program proposed for implementation this year will assist those eligible properties within the TIF district.

50 Director Nordman also noted Illinois Governor Quinn's recent announcement that planning for Amtrak service through Huntley including a downtown station previously dismissed from consideration, is now being revisited and will hopefully result in service along the Chicago to Rockford line. Furthermore, Director Nordman stated that the Amtrak service may serve as an integral precursor for future consideration of a Metra station in Huntley.

7. Adjournment

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At 8:10 p.m., A MOTION was made by Commissioner Marino to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Commissioner Rizzo. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

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James Williams

Planner

Village of Huntley