

MINUTES

WEST CHICAGO HISTORICAL PRESERVATION COMMISSION MEETING

NOVEMBER 18, 2014, 7:00 P.M.

Members Present:

Richard Vigsnes
Blake Kennedy
Rev. Bill Andrews
Phillip Smith

Staff:

John Said
Jeff Harris

Members Absent:

Janet Hale
Cheryl Waterman

Guests:

David Sabathne
Tony Schmidt

1. Call to Order, Roll Call and establishment of a Quorum.

A quorum was established. The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m.

2. Certificate of Appropriateness Review

a. 151 W. Washington St. – C.O.A. 14-18

The property owner wishes to complete all of the work that is necessary, including masonry restoration of the existing east and west porches and stairs, lighting at four entry points, railing balusters (spindles), and brick staining. The parking lot is also required to be restored to either grass or paved. The lot has been cleared, shaped with black dirt, seed and blanket installed. The final design of both porches, the decks, and stairs will be completed in the spring of 2015. All of these improvements need to be approved by the Historical Preservation Commission prior to the end of November 2014, in order to have the \$145,000 letter of credit released. These funds will be used on the design, deposit on approximately 300 custom balusters, and interior restoration.

Jeff Harris also read an email to the Commission from President Janet Hale. She expressed her concerns about the balusters, stating they were too large and visually overpowering. She also suggested that a 'temporary' measure was not necessary, and that a subtle, cost effective, style should be implemented. The group then spoke with President Hale via phone call, and the property owner, as well as members of the Commission, convinced her that the proposed balusters were the correct decision to follow. There was a motion to approve as presented by Commissioner Andrews, and was seconded by Commissioner Smith. The motion passed with an all aye vote.

b. 142 W. Washington St. – C.O.A. 14-19

The property owner is wishing to receive approval to externally illuminate his existing wall sign. In May of 2014, the owner had received approval to install a non-illuminated wall sign. The proposed illumination of the sign would be in the form of an LED flexible light strip (a.k.a. a rope light) around the sign. The rope lighting will be 4350 lumen, but the sign code prohibits anything greater than 30 lumen. The Commission also feels that the rope lighting would not be consistent with the lighting of the streetscape in the District.

In the email from President Hale, she mentioned that the lighting will look more like marquee lighting, and would actually blur the sign. The Commission deliberated on a more effective lighting style, and felt that a goose-neck light would be more appropriate to the aesthetics of the streetscape and District. The property owner was open to the suggestions and is in the process of considering alternative options. C.O.A. 14-19 was then continued until the next Historical Preservation Commission meeting so the owner can pursue alternate lighting styles.

3. Preliminary Review

None.

4. Historic District/Landmark Update

None.

5. Approval of Minutes

a. October 28, 2014

A motion to approve the minutes as presented by Commissioner Smith, and seconded by Commissioner Andrews. The motion passed with all aye vote. Commissioner Vigsnes abstained.

6. Other Business

a. St. Mary's Landmark Status

At the October 27, 2014 City Council meeting, the Council denied the proposal for consideration of landmark status for the St. Mary's Church campus. Therefore, the church will not be receiving landmark status. Commissioner Andrews stated that there needs to be a separation of church and state when considering the process of placing landmark status on historic structures. Jeff Harris mentioned this could be considered when the Commission revises the landmark regulations.

b. Opening on the West Chicago Historic Preservation Commission

There is one opening on the Commission, although there are no applications. The upcoming city newsletter will mention any vacancies on all City commissions.

7. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Kennedy and seconded by Commissioner Andrews. The motion passed with an all aye vote. The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.