

Oak Park Historic Preservation Commission
EDUCATION COMMITTEE
January 24, 2017 Meeting Minutes
Oak Park Village Hall, Room 215, 7:30 pm

A. Roll Call

PRESENT: Dan Moroney, Jennifer Bridge, David Sokol, Don McLean, Chris Payne
ABSENT: Rebecca Houze
STAFF: Douglas Kaarre, Urban Planner

B. MINUTES

Commissioner Sokol noted that he was present for the meeting, which should be reflected in the minutes.

Motion by Bridge to approve the minutes of the October 25, 2016 meeting as amended. Second by McLean. Motion approved 5-0.

AYE: Bridge, McLean, Moroney, Payne, Sokol

NAY: None

C. Frank Lloyd Wright Historic District Guide Book: Discuss RFP for consultant to update and reprint

The Village has budgeted \$40,000 for hiring a consultant to update the design and layout and for reprinting.

Commissioner Sokol stated that they should discuss whether they should also do a third historic district Guidebook for the Gunderson Historic District. If they want to, then maybe they should consider a similar design theme for all three books. The Ridgeland Historic District book is much older and will need to be redone as well.

Commissioner McLean stated that most of the funding will be needed for the design layout. They shouldn't split the funds.

Commissioner Sokol asked if they wanted to keep the current format which is a self-guided walking tour. The Ridgeland guidebook is more research and has more text. They both have black and white photos.

The Committee discussed the benefits of both and felt that artistic photos of pieces of buildings are not the right direction. Color photos are more appealing and not any more expensive in regards to printing. They also did not feel it should continue as a book of walking tours. They suggested comparing it to the Frank Lloyd Wright Home & Studio's walking tour. It should include a nice map showing the boundaries of the historic district. They should update the photos and the text and which properties are included in the book.

There were originally 5,000+ copies printed back in 2000. Those copies ran out in 2015. The Committee discussed a timeline. They need to create an RFP for a consultant to take new photos and a consultant to do the design layout, printing and digital.

The Committee discussed the budget. They will need a historic consultant plus a graphic designer. They reviewed the 1999-2000 costs overview. It is a new and different book, not a minor update. They discussed color and layout. They need to reconceptualize the project and budget for the Village Board. Next steps alternatives:

- a) Put out an RFP to price out the project
- b) Or price out redoing the same book as starting
- c) RFP for research – maybe use a graduate student

The book should be the same size using a soft cover and of similar quality. They discussed what should stay in the book and what should be added:

- Neighborhood/historic district map
- Preface
- Introduction
- Four tours
- Four Maps pages
- Bibliography
- Style Guide
- Architects Biographies
- Index

Summary of guide book discussion

- Existing Guidebook is out-of-date as a tour book
- Artistic photos and black and white photos are not the right direction
- Reconceptualize format
- Expanded historic district boundaries need to be included
- Use color photos (not more expensive) – all photos need updating
- Commemorate Frank Lloyd Wright's 150th birthday
- Add new properties
- Create a new map
- Book will be roughly the same size, soft cover, and of similar quality
- Have a map in front, highlight homes, use color photos and introduction
- HPC will provide direction on format to consultant

The Education Committee will discuss what stays in the book and what should be added. Commissioner McLean will talk to printers about costs. A graphic designer will cost about \$30,000 just for the design layout. You could reuse much of the existing text, but with additional properties, and editing for changes, a historic consultant/grad student could be \$10,000-\$20,000 or less. Printing costs would likely be at least \$40,000, and probably wouldn't occur until 2018. The National Trust matching grant is \$5,000.

The RFP to determine the project cost should be for design layout, text and printing.

D. Oak Park Post Office: Discuss preservation and future second-floor reuse; coordinate with local working group and postmaster

Commissioner Moroney asked if they had heard anything from the U.S. Postal Service about Oak Park's post office?

Commissioner Sokol stated no, but they are closing them all over the country. The HPC gave an award to the Post Office years ago for the restoration of the lobby. They haven't spent any money on the building since then. They used to have offices upstairs.

Commissioner Bridge discussed Naperville's downtown post office mural, which was moved to a private building but remains in federal government ownership. Their postmaster lives in Oak Park.

Commissioner Sokol stated that Keith Bringe made a presentation to the Village Board in December 2015 alerting them to the condition of the building and the potential threat. He asked them to direct the HPC to work with the Post Office on the building's preservation and reuse.

The Committee discussed the working group put together by Keith Bringe, which includes Regina Nally, Douglas Gilbert, Amy Keller, Vince Michael and Sandra Sokol. It was asked who makes decisions locally about Oak Park's post office. It used to be Danny Davis, but he does not any more.

E. Architectural Review Guidelines: Discuss final editing and timeline

Chair Payne stated provided an internal update on outreach. They should begin using the new Guidelines informally to make sure there are no issues. He discussed strategy for updating the Guidelines and how they will provide an educational perspective. He provided an overview of the steps they will use to review projects with the new Guidelines. They must first educate the HPC on the Guidelines.

F. Certified Local Government Grant: Discuss applying for the NAPC Commission Assistance and Mentoring Program

The grant in the amount of \$7,000 would train commission members. The National Alliance of Preservation Commissions (NAPC) would provide the training. The Village would only be responsible for 30% of the cost of the grant. Chair Payne has attended these before and they are excellent sources of educational training in many subjects. Staff will work on the application.

Commissioner Sokol left the meeting at 9:00 p.m.

G. Brochures: Review and edit the brochure *Building Permits for Historic Properties* prior to reprinting

The Committee discussed reprinting the permit brochure in relation to the new Introduction section of the Guidelines, and whether the brochure would provide

redundant information. It appears that the Introduction section does cover the subject adequately. Therefore, reprinting the permit brochure will no longer be necessary.

H. National Trust Preservation Funds Grant: Discuss potential grant activities

The Committee discussed potential projects which they could apply for this grant, including printing the Architectural Review Guidelines when completed, paying for a consultant to take the photos for the new Frank Lloyd Wright Historic District Guidebook, or paying for a consultant to develop the text for the historic district Guidebook and edit the outdated text. The Committee agreed on the Guidebook photos. Staff and Commissioner Bridge will work on the application.

I. Landmark Link: Historic Preservation Commission newsletter

The Committee discussed ideas for upcoming newsletters, including highlighting the 2016 Preservation Awards, promoting the two guidebooks, the Architectural Review Guidelines, garages and coach houses, featured style or home, and featured Historic Landmarks.

J. Other Business

Historic Commercial Architecture: The Committee discussed the potential threat to the Foley-Rice building (north side) historically known at the Hill Motor Sales Company. It was recommended that the subject of historic commercial buildings, including the Motor Row buildings on Madison Street, be included on the next agenda. This is on their approved work plan for 2017.

K. Adjourn

Motion by McLean to adjourn. Second by Bridge. Motion approved: 4-0.

Meeting adjourned at 9:35 p.m. Minutes prepared Douglas Kaarre, Urban Planner.