

MINUTES OF A SPECIAL JOINT MEETING

URBANA & CHAMPAIGN HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSIONS

APPROVED

DATE: May 3, 2000

TIME: 6:30 p.m.

PLACE: Urbana City Building
400 Vine Street
Urbana, IL 61801

**URBANA HISTORIC PRESERVATION
COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Alice Novak, Art Zangerl,
Paul Ecklor, Liz Cardman
Lachlan Blair, Richard Cahill

**URBANA HISTORIC PRESERVATION
COMMISSION MEMBERS EXCUSED:**

Trent Shepard

URBANA STAFF PRESENT:

Rob Kowalski, Senior Planner
Elizabeth Tyler, Asst. City Planner
Tim Ross, Planner
Mary Jo Montgomery, Recording Secretary

**CHAMPAIGN HISTORIC PRESERVATION
COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Susan Appel, Jimmy Fallon, Jeff Mellander, Lois
Wacholtz, Russell Cory, Tim Bartlett, Ernie
Martin, Gary Olsen, Kristine Anstead

CHAMPAIGN STAFF PRESENT:

Christine Newbold, Planner II
Kevin D. Phillips, Zoning Administrator

OTHERS PRESENT:

Karen Kummer, PACA

1. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL AND DECLARATION OF QUORUM

The meeting was called to order by Urbana Historic Preservation Commission Chairperson Alice Novak at 6:35 p.m. Roll call was taken. A quorum was declared present.

2. INTRODUCTIONS

The Urbana Historic Preservation Commission introduced themselves followed by the Champaign Urbana Historic Preservation Commission.

3. PRESENTATION BY CITY OF CHAMPAIGN

Christine Newbold presented a visual presentation of Champaign's Preservation Program. Ms. Newbold spoke regarding some of the projects that Champaign had been involved with. Kristine Anstead presented the Orpheum Theatre, 346-352 North Neil Street, Champaign. The Theatre was designated for landmark status on March 17, 1998. Lois Wacholtz presented the Villard Court Historic District, located south of Green Street and west of Randolph Street in Champaign. Villard Court was designated for historic district status on August 18, 1998. Tim Bartlett presented the Harwood-Solon House at 503 South State Street, Champaign. The Harwood-Solon was designated for landmark status on September 1, 1998. Susan Appel presented the Franks House, 704 North Randolph Street, Champaign. The Franks House was designated for landmark status on September 21, 1999. Gary Olsen presented the Coca Cola Bottling Company, 1201 S. Neil Street, Champaign. This building was not designated for landmark status.

4. PRESENTATION BY CITY OF URBANA

Rob Kowalski, Senior Planner, gave a brief overview of Urbana's Historic Preservation Program. Alice Novak presented Tiernan's Block/Masonic Temple at 115 West Main Street, Urbana. Tiernan's Block/Masonic Temple was nominated for landmark status December 1, 1999. Ms. Novak also presented the Lindley House at 312 W. Green Street, Urbana. The third property presented by Ms. Novak was the Gothic Revival Cottage at 108 North Webber Street, Urbana. Art Zangerl presented Busey's Hall/The Princess Theatre at 120-124 W. Main Street, Urbana. Mr. Zangerl also presented The Ricker House at 612 West Green Street, Urbana.

5. DISCUSSION

Mr. Ecklor stated that in 1974 when he was in Vienna, Austria, 200 to 400 year old buildings were being renovated. Mr. Ecklor's point was that buildings in the United States that are hundreds of years old are mainly torn down. Mr. Ecklor stated that much of the decorative stone work from the Sheriff's residence and the old jail is being saved. This stone work will be reincorporated in the new Champaign County Courthouse.

Susan Appel asked if Urbana had discussed the education issue. Ms. Novak stated that both Champaign and Urbana have difficulty getting the public interested in the landmark process. Ms. Appel stated that students nominated all five of the landmarks in Urbana. She also stated that students nominated eleven of the fifteen landmarks nominated in Champaign. Ms. Novak asked if the two commissions should do a joint workshop including topics on how to research your property, what it means to be a landmark and how to go through the process, so the public could become familiar with the process. Mr. Zangerl suggested that the workshop be combined with a tour of the Urbana archives. Ms. Newbold suggested the public should be made aware of what designation means. She also stated there should be a joint effort toward public education. Mr. Olsen stated the commissions should work with the city councils and possibly offer incentives, such as local tax relief to assist people in restoring their building to original. Ms. Wacholtz would like to see some K-12 education programs on architecture and detail. She also felt that tours and walks should be expanded throughout the community and should not be left up to PACA alone. She would like to bring the Champaign and Urbana landmarks to the schools. Ms. Anstead stated that the Orpheum Theatre is a Children's Science Museum and possibly the Historic Preservation Commissions could offer a program about historic preservation to children on the weekends. Mr. Bartlett stated the local libraries should get involved. He thought a traveling exhibit that visited the libraries with photos, displays and books on historic preservation would be helpful. He felt this might de-mystify the process and the forms. He feels a cooperative effort is necessary. Ms. Anstead said she thought it was necessary for the two commissions to show strong public support for the cities.

Ms. Novak stated that both communities have a number of National Register listings. National Register listings have virtually no protection. Ms. Novak thought it was important to target these to also be local landmarks. Mr. Zangerl wanted to know if the National Register Application information was public information. Ms. Novak stated that the information is available to the public.

6. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Karen Kummer, Executive Director of the Preservation and Conservation Association (PACA) stated she was at this meeting on behalf of the Board of Directors of PACA. She stated PACA wants to work hand in hand with the Historic Preservation Commissions. Ms. Kummer also stated that PACA

will have a booth at Taste of Champaign, June 17 and 18 and invited the commissioner's to attend. Ms. Kummer stated that Preservation week was coming up and PACA would like to start working with the commissions to develop joint activities. On the subject of brochures, Ms. Kummer stated PACA would be willing to share their mailing lists. Ms. Kummer also stated that one of the main objectives for PACA next year is to develop an education program involving the school districts. PACA has been working with Michelle Olson, a noted preservation educator in the community. Ms. Kummer stated she hoped to be able to develop a regional program. Also, through Parkland, an adult education program is being considered. PACA's board is interested in writing nominations to present to the commissions. In terms of incentives, Ms. Kummer stated that she felt some flexibility for redevelopment of commercial buildings, property codes, building codes and how they pertain to historic structures would be helpful. Also, possibly no building permit fees and property tax freeze for the city tax portion for rehabilitated properties for a period of ten years.

Mr. Zangerl stated that as a small incentive, architectural elements that are lost or damaged on historic structures are hard to replace. Would PACA be able to discount or donate these items if they had them in the warehouse? Ms. Kummer said that was a possibility.

Susan Appel stated that since both cities now have survey plans, what should they do with them? Ms. Novak stated that that relates to the education issue. Mr. Olsen stated that the commissioners should contact the owners of the facilities that are Registered Properties to see if they are interested in local designation.

7. ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

April D. Getchius, Secretary
Urbana Historic Preservation Commission