

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING**

**URBANA HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION**

**APPROVED**

**DATE:** August 1, 2007

**TIME:** 7:00 p.m.

**PLACE:** City Council Chamber, 400 South Vine Street, Urbana, Illinois

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**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Scott Dossett, Katherine Lipes, Alice Novak, Mary Stuart, Art Zangerl

**MEMBERS EXCUSED:** Rich Cahill, Trent Shepard

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** none

**STAFF PRESENT:** Robert Myers, Planning Division Manager; Rebecca Bird, Planning Division Intern; Tony Weck, Recording Secretary

**OTHERS PRESENT:** G. D. Brighton, Linda Lorenz, Ilona Matkovszki, Dennis Roberts

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m. by Historic Preservation Commission Chair, Alice Novak. Roll was taken and a quorum was declared.

**2. CHANGES TO THE AGENDA**

There were none.

**3. APPROVAL OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES**

Ms. Novak made one correction to the minutes of the May 2, 2007 meeting. With no other corrections or revisions proposed by the Commission, Mr. Dossett moved to approve the minutes as amended. Mr. Zangerl seconded the motion. Upon a vote, the minutes were unanimously approved as amended.

**4. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS**

Rebecca Bird presented the Commission with copies of the 2007 Certified Local Government (CLG) Annual Report for the Commission's activities over the past year. There were no questions or comments from the Commission.

**5. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

There was none at this point in the meeting.

**6. CONTINUED PUBLIC HEARINGS**

There were none.

**7. OLD BUSINESS**

There was none.

**8. NEW PUBLIC HEARINGS**

There were none.

**9. NEW BUSINESS**

- **Proposed Joseph W. Royer Architectural District**

Robert Myers said that City staff had just received a draft brochure on the architecture of Joseph W. Royer which was composed by Ilona Matkovszki and Dennis Roberts.

Ms. Matkovszki and Mr. Roberts were then invited to present their proposal to the Commission. The brochure would be used not only as a recognition for the work of Joseph Royer and to promote Urbana's historic architecture generally, but also as a promotional tool to recruit new residents and professors. Recognition would be a way to spur investment and possibly be the basis for grants for public improvements in the downtown and near neighborhoods. Mr. Roberts said that that recognition of the district would not confer any restrictions on property owners. It is merely a designated, celebrated area. Ms. Matkovszki said she had enough research for perhaps a 36 page booklet and that this brochure is intended to be a highlight. Mr. Roberts asked the Commission to review and endorse the proposal and said that he planned on presenting it to the City Council at an upcoming Committee meeting. Following their presentation, questions and comments were taken from the Commission.

Ms. Stuart inquired if there would be a recommendation to City Council to earmark funds for the brochure. Mr. Roberts answered that he envisioned a request to pay for the brochure. Additionally, Ms. Stuart inquired as to why Joseph Royer seemed to be less prolific in terms of his professional output in later years. Ms. Matkovszki answered that Royer was indeed active in his profession until his death and worked in other Illinois cities as well. Mr. Roberts added that much of the text included in the draft brochure could be made into a more detailed booklet.

Mr. Zangerl noted that he liked the idea of a Royer architectural guide but said that care would need to be taken in using the term "historic" because of the special protections afforded under historic district status. Ms. Matkovszki added that although a lot of thought had already gone into the name, the precise nomenclature of the district, should it come to pass, could be sorted out. A discussion

also took place with several Commissioners concerned that use of the word “district” would be confusing because it could give the impression that properties are protected when they would not be.

Mr. Dossett made a motion that the Chair appoint an ad hoc committee to work on the wording, in collaboration with Ms. Matkovszki and Mr. Roberts, and bring back a final draft to the next Historic Preservation Commission meeting. And then at the next meeting the Commission could make a more definitive statement to the City Council about the proposal. Mr. Zangerl seconded the motion. Ms. Novak asked City staff about the timing of doing such. Mr. Myers responded that the next regularly scheduled Commission meeting was September 5<sup>th</sup>. If Mr. Roberts anticipates presenting the brochure to the Committee of the Whole at their September 10<sup>th</sup> meeting, there would not be enough time to prepare the Commission’s response to meet the Committee of the Whole packet deadline on the morning of September 6<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Dossett asked Ms. Novak to call the question. Ms. Novak asked for a roll call and the votes were as follows:

Mr. Cahill – (excused)	Mr. Shepard – (excused)
Mr. Dossett – Yes	Ms. Stuart – Yes
Ms. Lipes – No	Mr. Zangerl – No
Ms. Novak – No	

The motion failed by a vote of three to two.

Further discussion by the Commission ensued, during which Mr. Zangerl made a motion that the Commission endorse the concept of a Royer architectural district with marked signage and that the Commission have an opportunity to review promotional materials should the City Council decide to support it. The motion was seconded. Ms. Novak asked for a roll call and the votes were as follows:

Mr. Cahill – (excused)	Mr. Shepard – (excused)
Mr. Dossett – Yes	Ms. Stuart – Yes
Ms. Lipes – Yes	Mr. Zangerl – Yes
Ms. Novak – Yes	

The motion carried unanimously.

## **10. MONITORING OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES**

It was noted by Mr. Myers and Ms. Bird that the local landmark-designated house at 108 North Webber Street appeared to be in need of repairs. The owner has informed City staff that she has plans to paint the house within the next few months.

## **11. STAFF REPORT**

- **502 & 504 West Elm Street**

Mr. Myers informed the Commission that the City Council approved the applications to designate 502 and 504 W. Elm Street as local landmarks.

- **Demolition Review**

At the request of City Council, City staff is researching the issue of demolition review as a way to reduce the loss of historic resources and will be providing this information to the Council. Information will also be provided to the Historic Preservation Commission.

- **Historic Preservation Incentives**

Ms. Bird presented ideas to the Commission on possible incentives for historic preservation within the City. This information is also being provided to the City Council.

- **Neighborhood Conservation Districts (NCDs)**

Mr. Myers updated the Commission on the status of Neighborhood Conservation Districts. He reported that the matter was under consideration by the Urbana City Council.

- **Windows Workshop**

Ms. Bird announced that the Windows Workshop would be held at the Urbana-Champaign Independent Media Center on Saturday, August 25<sup>th</sup> and gave a brief update to the Commission on the status of its planning.

## **12. STUDY SESSION**

There was none.

## **13. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The following announcements were made:

Ms. Novak stated that the Kids' Building Fair on May 19<sup>th</sup> had gone very well. She and Ms. Stuart also mentioned that the *Urbana Courier/Champaign-Urbana Courier* newspaper, a local news publication that preceded the present-day *News-Gazette* was now available online for the years 1916-1925.

## **14. ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Zangerl moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Dossett seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 8:42 p.m.

August 1, 2007

Submitted,

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Robert Myers, AICP, Planning Division Manager