

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING**

**URBANA HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION**

**APPROVED**

**DATE:** May 6, 2009

**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, Trent Shepard, Joan Stolz, Mary Stuart, Art Zangerl

**MEMBERS EXCUSED:** none

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** none

**STAFF PRESENT:** Rebecca Bird, Planner; Tony Weck, Recording Secretary

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Nancy Wehling, Marie Bohl, Ed Tiedemann, Corrie Proksa, Rebecca Rury Burlingame

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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**

Ms. Bird suggested that the public hearing regarding the Certificate of Appropriateness for the arch at Buena Vista Court be held before the discussion on the T-Mobile donation for historic preservation. There were no objections and the agenda was so changed.

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

The Commission reviewed the draft minutes of the April 1, 2009 meeting. Mr. Zangerl made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Mr. Dossett seconded the motion. Upon a vote, the Commission unanimously approved the April 1 minutes as presented.

**4. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS**

There were none.

**5. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

There was none at this point in the meeting.

**6. CONTINUED PUBLIC HEARINGS**

There were none.

**7. NEW PUBLIC HEARINGS**

- **Case #HP-2009-COA-03; Application for a Certificate of Appropriateness to remove a courtyard entrance arch at Buena Vista Court Historic District**

Ms. Bird presented the staff report to the Commission. City staff recommended that the Commission grant the requested Certificate of Appropriateness to allow the removal of the arch with the condition that the knee braces be salvaged so they can be incorporated into a replacement arch. During the course of Ms. Bird's presentation, she addressed questions from Buena Vista Court property owners who were present in the audience.

Following Ms. Bird's presentation of the staff report, Ms. Novak called for questions and/or comments from the Commission regarding the case. There were none. Ms. Novak then asked if there was anyone in the audience who would like to address the Commission as a proponent of the case. Nancy Wehling, a resident of Buena Vista Court, addressed the Commission. She supported the request for a Certificate of Appropriateness and made the suggestion that the piers of the existing arch be salvaged and used elsewhere in the courtyard. There were no other proponents of the case who addressed the Commission.

Ms. Novak then asked if there was anyone in the audience who would like to address the Commission as an opponent of the case. There were none.

Ms. Novak then called for Commission discussion of the case. There was none.

Mr. Zangerl made a motion to approve the application for a Certificate of Appropriateness for case #HP-2009-COA-03 with the condition that the knee braces be salvaged along with a sample portion of the concrete roof and of the stucco from one of the piers on the grounds that the arch is a public safety hazard and must be removed. Mr. Dossett seconded the motion. There was brief further discussion of the case during which the issue of ownership of the arch was discussed. It is not clear who owns the arch or the land upon which the arch stood. Following this discussion Ms. Novak called for a vote. Roll was taken and the votes were as follows:

Dossett – yes	Stolz – yes
Lipes – yes	Stuart – yes
Novak – yes	Zangerl – yes
Shepard – yes	

The motion carried unanimously and the Certificate of Appropriateness for this case was granted. With no further discussion, Ms. Novak closed the public hearing for this case.

## 8. NEW BUSINESS

- **Case #HP 2009-NRN-01; Request for review of National Register Nomination for Alpha Gamma Delta Fraternity House at 1106 S. Lincoln Avenue**

Ms. Bird presented the staff report for this matter to the Commission. In the staff report it was stated that Karen Lang Kummer, and Christopher Enck of the Society for the Preservation of Greek Housing had nominated the Alpha Gamma Delta Fraternity House to the National Register of Historic Places. It was noted that the City of Urbana, as a Certified Local Government, had been asked to review the application for National Register listing. City staff recommended that the Commission approve of the nomination in its entirety.

The Commission reviewed and discussed the application for the Alpha Gamma Delta house, and concluded that it is eligible for National Register listing. Mr. Zangerl made a motion that the Commission approve the National Register nomination as presented and furthermore that the Commission encourage local landmark designation for the house. Mr. Dossett seconded the motion. With no further discussion, Ms. Novak called for a vote. Roll was taken and the votes were as follows:

Dossett – yes	Stolz – yes
Lipes – yes	Stuart – yes
Novak – yes	Zangerl – yes
Shepard – yes	

The motion carried unanimously and the Commission thus gave official approval to the National Register nomination for the Alpha Gamma Delta Fraternity house.

## 9. MONITORING OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Ms. Novak noted that the University of Illinois had put out a request for an architect to renovate the Mumford House. Ms. Bird noted that there are plans to repaint the Gothic Revival Cottage over the summer, as it is in need of painting. Mr. Dossett noted that the University of Illinois is in the process of painting the Mumford Barns.

## 10. STAFF REPORT

- In April, City staff issued a Certificate of Appropriateness for 508 W. Elm Street to replace the roofing materials in kind (case #HP-2009-COA-02).
- The Illinois Historic Preservation Agency (IHPA) had asked for a review of the house at 902 E. Main Street. Ms. Bird reported back to the IHPA with comments from the Commission's previous meeting. IHPA did not require further review from the Commission.
- Ms. Bird reported on the plaque program for historic and significant properties in Urbana. Specifically, plaques for the Cinema Gallery and Tiernan's Block, both local historic landmarks, were to be installed. A plaque will also be installed at the south end of Buena Vista Court.

- The City installed an honorary plaque at Roger Ebert's former residence on E. Washington Street. An unveiling event was recently held which was attended by Roger and Chaz Ebert, City officials, and the public.
- The City is hosting a House Unveiling workshop on June 13, 2009. The workshop will train people how to remove artificial siding from homes and how to prep for maintenance of the original siding.

## **11. OLD BUSINESS**

- **T-Mobile donation for historic preservation activity**

T-Mobile has donated \$5,000 to the City of Urbana for historic preservation purposes. Use of the funds will require approval from the City Council. The Commission discussed the issue, during which the consensus was that it would be desirable to pursue a National Register of Historic Places historic district which would include the West Urbana neighborhood and the Downtown.

Following discussion, Ms. Novak made a motion as follows: "It is the desire of the Urbana Historic Preservation Commission to pursue a National Register of Historic Places historic district, to include the West Urbana Neighborhood and possibly the Downtown, in a comprehensive approach to designation which would, at minimum, bring recognition and honor to a large number of historic resources, in addition to promoting the use of related financial incentives. It is our desire to have a project come to fruition and to promote an appreciation for historic resources."

Mr. Zangerl seconded the motion.

With no further discussion a voice vote was taken. The motion passed unanimously. Ms. Bird asked the Commission if they would like to discuss and/or vote on a second choice for the use of the T-Mobile funds. Ms. Novak declined, explaining that she felt very strongly about using the funds for a National Register district in Urbana.

## **12. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Ms. Novak announced that Ms. Lipes would soon be graduating from the University of Illinois. She noted that if there was no June meeting of the Commission that the present meeting could be Ms. Lipes's last, as she would be pursuing her career elsewhere.

## **13. ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business, Mr. Zangerl moved that the meeting be adjourned. Ms. Lipes seconded the motion. With all Commission members in favor, the meeting was adjourned at 8:43 p.m.

Submitted,

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Robert Myers, AICP  
Planning Division Manager