

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

APPROVED

DATE: April 4, 2012

TIME: 7:00 p.m.

PLACE: Council Chambers, 400 South Vine Street, Urbana, Illinois 61801

MEMBERS PRESENT: Scott Dossett, Alice Novak, David Seyler, Trent Shepard, Kim Smith

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Joan Stolz, Mary Stuart

STAFF PRESENT: Rebecca Bird, Planner I; Sukiya J. Robinson, Recording Secretary

OTHERS PRESENT: Rachel Cook

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

Urbana Historic Preservation Commission Chair, Alice Novak, called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. The roll call was taken, and a quorum was declared present.

2. CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

There were none.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the September 7, 2011 Historic Preservation Commission Meeting were presented for approval. With no changes proposed, Mr. Dossett made a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Shepard seconded the motion. The September 7, 2011 minutes were approved by unanimous vote.

4. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

Ms. Bird presented a letter received from Bernadine Stake regarding possible improvement and increase of businesses in Lincoln Square Mall. Ms. Bird distributed copies of the letter to the Commission for review.

5. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

There was none.

6. CONTINUED PUBLIC HEARINGS

There were none.

7. OLD BUSINESS

There was none.

8. NEW PUBLIC HEARINGS

There were none.

9. NEW BUSINESS

There was none.

10. MONITORING OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

There were none.

11. STAFF REPORT

There was none.

12. STUDY SESSION

- **Update on Urbana's 100 Most Significant Structures Project**

Ms. Novak introduced this agenda item and asked for City staff update.

Ms. Bird provided an update on the project. She explained that since the previous meeting she has had two interns working with her on the project. Ms. Bird gave a walk-through presentation of information posted so far on the City website. She explained that Staff anticipated that most of the project would be completed by the end of the month. She stated that some of the formatting, and posting on the website may not be done until the beginning of May. Ms. Bird then announced that the Historic Preservation Commission and the City of Urbana had received an award from the Champaign County Preservation and Conservation Association (PACA) for creating the honorary list of the 100 Most Important Building & Sites in Urbana. She stated that the award ceremony would be on Saturday, April 28, 2012 from 2:00-4:00 p.m. at 805 S. Daniel in Champaign. Commission questions to the City staff were addressed.

Ms. Bird then explained that once the information on the website was complete, Staff would have another round of press releases, news stories, etc. She stated that Staff had applied for and was awarded another grant from the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency to advance this project and make podcast tours using some of the properties on the list. She stated that work on the new project would begin following completion of the current grant project and would include collaboration with

Urbana Public Television and the consultant used on the Lincoln Podcast Tour. Ms. Bird described what Staff had envisioned for the project. She then asked for the Commissioners and the public to peruse the pages on the website and provide any feedback via email or phone. A brief discussion of the matter by members of the Commission and Staff ensued.

- **Update on MODERN URBANA: a home tour**

Ms. Bird provided information on this project that she had been working on with a graduate class in the University of Illinois' School of Architecture to create a Modern homes architectural tour in Urbana. The eight students in the class used existing resources, interviews, paper research, and digital research to create an expansive list of modern architecture. She stated that the tour was scheduled for May 6, 2012 from 1:00-4:00 p.m. and would include about six houses, mainly in south Urbana. More information on the tour would be provided in the next couple weeks. Commission questions to the City staff were addressed.

13. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Bird announced the following:

- She reiterated the PACA Awards scheduled for April 28 from 2:00-4:00 p.m. at 805 S. Daniel and gave more information on some of the awards being presented.
- The Children's Building Fair at the Orpheum Theater would take place on May 19, 2012 from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. She stated that there would be a Preservation booth at the event, and that more information could be found on Orpheum's website.
- Ms. Bird also shared that in 2007 the West Urbana Neighborhood was awarded for being one of 10 Great Neighborhoods by the American Planning Association. She stated that Staff had been working with the Urbana Park District and the West Urbana Neighborhood Association to get a plaque installed on a boulder within Carle Park.
- May is Preservation Month and the theme is "Hidden Gems".

14. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business Mr. Dossett moved that the meeting be adjourned. Mr. Seyler seconded the motion. With all Commission members in favor, the meeting adjourned at 7:51 p.m.

Submitted,

Robert Myers, AICP
Planning Manager