

MINUTES OF THE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
January 18, 2021

The regular meeting of the Historic Preservation Commission was conducted virtually due to public health concerns and called to order by Chairman James Hartshorne at 5:09 p.m.

Members present: Chairman James Hartshorne, Les Galo, Thor Jondahl and Mike Kollman.

Members absent: Katherine Hamilton-Smith and Melissa Senatore.

A quorum was established.

Village Staff present: John Spoden, Director of Community Development; and Christopher Sandine, Associate Planner.

Commissioner Kollman made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Galo, to approve the September 21, 2020, Historic Preservation Commission meeting minutes, as written.

Motion carried 4 - 0.

Old Business:

None.

New Business:

Review Certified Local Government Application

Mr. Christopher Sandine, Associate Planner, stated that it has been a goal for the Commission to be recognized as a Certified Local Government (CLG) in the State of Illinois. Mr. Sandine referred to the Certified Local Government Program sheet, listed on the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency website, when discussing the submittal requirements. Mr. Sandine stated there are several benefits to becoming a CLG, which includes (1) becoming eligible to receive matching grant funds set aside for specific preservation-related projects; (2) participating in state and federal historic preservation protection and incentive programs; (3) receiving direct technical assistance from the Illinois State Historic Preservation Office; and (4) joining a network of communities and experts that can provide valuable perspectives on local and statewide plans and programs. Mr. Sandine stated the requirements to qualify as a CLG include: (1) enacting an historic preservation ordinance and enforcing state and local preservation laws; (2) maintaining an adequate and qualified Historic Preservation Review Commission; (3) maintaining a system for the survey and inventory of historic properties; and (4) playing an advisory role in the nomination process for the National Register of Historic Places. Mr. Sandine stated that the Commission crafted the Ordinance in 2014 with the intention of applying for the CLG status. Mr. Sandine stated the Village maintains the surveys that have been completed online and in written format. Mr. Sandine stated the public is welcome to attend the Historic Preservation Commission meetings and the public will continue to be able to voice their concerns on historic preservation related matters.

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Mr. Sandine stated the process of applying requires the chief elected official of the local government to submit five (5) different checklist items. Mr. Sandine stated these items include (1) written assurance that the local government intends to fulfill the CLG requirements; (2) a copy of the local historic preservation ordinance; (3) a list of locally designated landmarks and historic districts; (4) resumes for all historic preservation commissioners, showing their demonstrated interest, knowledge, or expertise in historic preservation; and (4) a copy of the community's historic preservation plan, if available, or a statement describing the local preservation program, including surveys, designation, and protection activities. Mr. Sandine stated he has provided the Commission with a draft copy of the written assurance, the resume for each Commissioner, and a draft copy of a statement that describes the local preservation program. Commissioner Jondahl questioned how many local governments have become certified in the State of Illinois. Mr. Sandine stated the Illinois Historic Preservation Office does include a list of other communities, which is around 50 communities.

Commissioner Kollman questioned the requirement of an historic preservation plan. Mr. Sandine stated the historic preservation plan is that the Commission can use when determining how to move forward with historic preservation related activities. Commissioner Kollman related the historic preservation plan to a comprehensive plan document. Mr. Sandine stated the historic preservation plan will likely be a mixture of images, maps, and writings. Commissioner Kollman questioned if the Commission or a consultant can be hired to create a plan. Mr. John Spoden, Director of Community Development, stated it is likely a project that can be completed in house. Commissioner Jondahl questioned if the historic preservation plan is something that would plan out the next 30-years for the Commission. Mr. Sandine stated there will likely be initiatives attached to the preservation plan that will allow the Commission to react to the changing environments. Commissioner Kollman stated the financial incentives are huge for potential building owners. Mr. Spoden stated the financial incentives have been promoted for the Fould's Building. Mr. Spoden stated the Fould's Building has been sold and aesthetic changes may be proposed in the Spring 2021. Commissioner Kollman stated it sounds like applying for the CLG status is a no-brainer. Commissioner Jondahl questioned if there is another layer of protection for demolitions, i.e. does a building need state approval, too. Mr. Spoden stated the properties are still under the domain of the Village.

Commissioner Kollman questioned the next steps. Mr. Sandine requested the Commission review the information and make any edits to the documents. Mr. Sandine stated the information will be reviewed by the Village Attorney, then ideally the Commission will review and discuss the proposal to make a formal recommendation to the Village Board. Mr. Spoden stated the Village Board is aware one of the goals for this Commission is to become a Certified Local Government.

COMMUNICATIONS AND DISCUSSION:

Commissioner Kollman questioned the status of the www.historiclibertyville.com website. Mr. Sandine stated it has been sitting on its own for the time being, but it will be important to make sure it is up and running over the long term. Commissioner Kollman noted one of the grants may be used to update the virtual storage. Mr. Spoden stated the Fould's Building has been sold and a previous proposal included demolishing the silos on site. Mr. Spoden stated this proposal was

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stopped before reaching the Commission since the petitioner did not own the property at the time of submittal. Mr. Spoden also stated the petitioner for the Liberty Theater has not filed for a Certificate of Economic Hardship, but he has noted there might be a contract for the property.

With no further discussion, Chairman Hartshorne made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Kollman, to adjourn the Historic Preservation Commission.

Motion carried 4 - 0.

Meeting adjourned at 5:34 p.m.