

CARMEL HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

COUNCIL ROOM, CARMEL CITY HALL

1 CIVIC SQUARE, CARMEL, IN

April 11, 2024 – 6:00 P.M.

Minutes

1. Call to Order

Jess Lawhead called the meeting to order at 6:01 P.M.

2. Roll Call

Commissioners Present: Fred Swift, Nick Kestner, Jess Lawhead, Emily Ehrgott, Rosemary Dunkle, Barry Simich

Commissioners Not Present: Bill Sanders

Staff: Mark Dollase, Alex Brooks

Guests: Matt Uber

3. Approval of Minutes (2/8/2024)

Emily motioned to approve the February minutes. Barry seconded. Motion approved 4-0.

4. Hearing of Visitors

None

5. Certificate of Appropriateness Review

None

6. Report on Staff Approvals

None

7. Financial Report

a. Budget update

Alex said the current budget is \$90,000 with a non-reverting fund of \$394,770.97.

8. Old Business

a. National Register Grant Program

Mark reminded the Commissioners of the Program's approval by the Commission, with the intention of launching the program on May 15, using the *Current* to advertise the program. He mentioned there will be a process of identifying properties in the Survey that would be eligible for the program. Emily asked when the *Current* article would be released, and Mark said ideally it would be sent before the letters.

b. Wilkinson House

Mark said he has been working with an individual who is interested in purchasing the home and rehabilitating it. He highlighted the need for infrastructure installation and mentioned that the non-reverting fund could be a source for grant money to a potential new owner to make repairs. Emily asked where these infrastructure connections, such as electrical and plumbing, would be connected to. Mark mentioned that he and EPCON have explored various options for connection points. Matt introduced himself and described his family's interest in the home and that he is exploring the viability of purchasing and restoring the home.

9. New Business

a. Training session: Commission background

Mark gave an overview of the commission's history. Around 2010, there was a spate of demolition in the City which inspired the creation of a historic preservation commission, which was created and approved by the City Council in December 2011. The Commission began its work by creating policies and procedures. Mark noted his disappointment that while there has been the designation of several single site districts, there has not been the designation of historic neighborhood districts in the City. He noted a failed attempt to designate the Johnson Addition neighborhood. Rosemary suggested trying to designate it again now that there is a new mayor. Mark detailed the creation of the historic architecture survey in 2014. In addition, he also described the creation of the demolition delay ordinance in 2016 and how it operates currently. Fred asked if there is currently a demolition delay request, which Mark said there was not. Rosemary asked about when the 2021 addition to the historic building survey will be approved by the City Council, which Mark hoped would be soon. He said the first step would be notifying property owners that they are on the survey addition. Jess recommended that statistics regarding how many buildings are from each era and architectural style could be helpful. Mark then noted the difference between a historic district and a conservation district. Fred asked about the potential of what occurs when city authorities are proposing the demolition of a building.

b. Education

Jess mentioned that supporting education could be a new opportunity for the Commission, expanding the scope of focus beyond solely preserving buildings. Mark noted that in the past, the commission has done a few events in the past, such as walking tours, but never a comprehensive education plan. Barry asked if the Commission had ever officially worked with the Historical Society, which Mark noted there has never been an official collaboration, despite cordial relations. Mark expressed interest in a potential collaboration in the future.

Rosemary emphasized doing work in the community with events that might attract public attention. Mark mentioned workshops about restoring historic homes may also be helpful.

10. Other Business

11. Announcements

12. Adjournment

Barry moved to adjourn the meeting. Fred seconded. Motion passed 6-0. Meeting adjourned at 7:17 P.M.



Jess Lawhead, Chairperson,
Carmel Historic Preservation
Commission



Alex Brooks, Recording Secretary