Evansville Historic Preservation Commission

**Minutes**

**Wednesday, February 17, 2016, 6:30 P.M.**

**Evansville City Hall**

**Present:** Betsy Ahner, Steve Christens, Steve Culbertson, John Decker, Matt Koser and Dan Stephans.

**Absent:**  Ald. Gene Lewis.

**Also Present:**  Community Development Director Jason Sergeant.

**Call to order.** The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM by Chair Culbertson.

**Approval of minutes.** Christens moved to waive reading and to approve the minutes of the January 20, 2016 minutes as submitted. Stephans seconded. Approved by unanimous voice vote.

**Civility reminder.**  Announced by the Chair.

**Citizen appearances.** None.

**Applications.** None.

**Community Development Director report.**

Sergeant reported that the amended historic preservation ordinance has been published and is available on the City web site.

The owners of the property at 268 W. Liberty Street may propose the construction of a garage on the property, and will bring forth a proposal if they decide to proceed.

Sergeant recommended that a formal joint meeting of the Historic Preservation Commission and of the Park & Recreation Board be held in the near future to discuss the Leonard-Leota Park proposals discussed at last month’s meeting and under the New Business item, below.

**Old business.**

1. **2015 Annual Report.** Christens moved to approve the 2015 Annual Report of the commission, as submitted. Stephans seconded. Approved by unanimous voice vote.
2. **Historic Preservation Plan.** Following discussion and consensus as to amended language, Christens moved to adopt the Historic Preservation Plan for the City of Evansville, as revised. Ahner seconded. Approved by unanimous voice vote.
3. **Proposed legislation affecting historic preservation in Wisconsin.** Decker reviewed the status of AB568 and SB445. AB568 was pulled from consideration at the executive meeting of the Assembly Committee on Housing and Real Estate, and significant amendments to that bill and the companion Senate Bill were subsequently proposed by the bill authors. The revisions eliminate the owner consent provisions and substitute notice, hearing, and appeal procedures. AB568, with the recent revisions, is expected to pass both houses of the legislature. The newly-adopted Evansville ordinance will comply with the state legislation.
4. **Amendments to historic preservation ordinance.** Decker presented drafts of an application for a Certificate of Appropriateness, of an application for a Demolition Permit for a Historic Structure, and of an application for Listing of a Local Landmark and application for designation of a Local Historic District. These forms may be revised and adopted at the commission’s March meeting. Sergeant recommended that a checklist be adopted for evaluation of applications for Certificates of Appropriateness.

**New business.**

1. **Discussion of Leonard-Leota Park projects.**

Sergeant advised that the Scout House has a number of repair and restoration needs, which should be addressed by short-term and long-term projects. The short-term projects will make the building weather tight and address life-safety issues, including the electrical system. Long-term projects will address the foundation issues, exterior aesthetics, and handicapped accessibility items. Stephans noted that the building was constructed on poorly-compacted fill and that the concrete block walls have been improperly tuckpointed over the years.

Sergeant noted that the Boy Scout Troop wishes to install a time capsule at the top of the Woman’s Relief Corps Flagpole, bring in a boulder, and apply a commemorative plaque. Decker suggested that any alterations to Leonard-Leota Park property other than routine maintenance be submitted for formal SHPO review and comment.

**Correspondence, comments, and concerns.**

Ahner and Stephans will consult with respect to the plan beds at the Baker Office Building. Plantings are too close to the building foundation and will need to be moved.

**Adjournment.**

Koser moved to adjourn. Ahner seconded. Approved by voice vote at 7:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

John Decker

Secretary

The minutes of the Evansville Historic Preservation Commission are not official until approved by the Commission.