Evansville Historic Preservation Commission

**Minutes**

**Wednesday, December 16, 2015, 6:30 P.M.**

**Evansville City Hall**

**Present:** Ald. Gene Lewis, Steve Christens, Steve Culbertson, John Decker, Matt Koser, and Dan Stephans.

**Absent:**  Betsy Ahner.

**Also Present:**  Community Development Director Jason Sergeant and citizens Bernie Simons and Darrell Hamilton.

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

**Approval of minutes.** Koser moved to waive reading and to approve the minutes of the November 18, 2015 minutes as submitted. Stephans seconded. Approved by unanimous voice vote.

**Citizen appearances.** None.

**New business.**

Community Development Director report. Sergeant reported that the Smart Growth Comprehensive Plan Update has been approved by the Common Council and is available on the City web site. Chapters 6 and 7 have provisions pertaining to historic preservation, including recommendations that the historic preservation ordinances be strengthened. Construction of the infill residence at 268 W. Liberty Street is progressing, and its as-built appearance complements the historic district.

Proposed legislation affecting historic preservation in Wisconsin. Decker moved approval of Evansville Historic Preservation Commission Resolution 2015-01 opposing the enactment of 2015 Wisconsin Assembly Bill 568 and 2015 Wisconsin Senate Bill 445, or similar legislation that would condition local designation of historically-significant property and the local regulation of such property on the consent of the owner thereof, and further urging the Common Council of the City of Evansville to adopt its own Resolution to the same effect. Stephans seconded. Approved by unanimous voice vote.

Draft Historic Preservation Plan for the City of Evansville. Decker presented an initial draft of a preservation plan for review by the commission. No action thereon at the current meeting was proposed.

**Old business.**

Discussion of “Scout House” building. Sergeant reviewed recent correspondence from the building inspector and city administrator concerning conditions within the “Scout House” (Historic Bath House and Park Store at Leonard-Leota Park) that make it unfit for occupation. The electrical system needs upgrading and installation of protective devices; an ADA compliant main entrance is required, along with a second egress to grade; and storage of materials is causing deflection of the ceiling joists. Messrs. Simon and Hamilton, representing the Scout Troop, advised they are cooperating with City officials, but are requesting additional time to remove items from the premises. Sergeant advised that a two-step process will be followed, with immediate attention to electrical and life-safety code items, and secondary attention to historic restoration and rehabilitation efforts that will require review and comment by the State Historic Preservation Officer. The commission offered its support for these efforts.

Review of proposed amendments to the historic preservation ordinances. Commissioners reviewed the entirety of the second draft of the proposed ordinances and appendices and offered comments and suggestions for revisions. Decker will produce a third draft incorporating those further proposed revisions, and will forward that draft to the commission, to the community development director, and to the city attorney. A public hearing and final action of the Common Council at its regular meeting in February 2016 is anticipated.

**Other business.**

Correspondence, comments and concerns. Lewis presented a historical photograph of the island in the East Lagoon at Leonard-Leota Park depicting nesting boxes for ducks. A copy of the photo should be submitted to Architecture and History Index maintained by the Wisconsin Historical Society to further document the site.

**Adjournment.**

Christens moved to adjourn. Koser seconded. Approved by voice vote at 7:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

John Decker

Secretary

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