Evansville Historic Preservation Commission

**Minutes**

**Wednesday, May 20, 2015, 6:30 P.M.**

**Evansville City Hall**

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

**Absent:** Betsy Ahner.

**Also Present:**  Community Development Director Jason Sergeant, Mayor Sandy Decker, Citizens Ivy Otto, Keith Henning, and Abe Schulz.

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM by Chair Richard Modaff.

Motion by Culbertson to waive the reading of the April 15, 2015 minutes and approve them as printed. Second by Christens. Motion carried.

**Reorganization items.**

Modaff advised it was in order for Commission officers, chair, vice-chair and secretary, to be nominated and elected at this time, for terms continuing until the May 2016 meeting of the Commission. Christens moved to nominate Modaff for chair, Christens for vice-chair, and Decker for secretary, and further moved to close nominations and direct the secretary to cast a unanimous ballot for the nominees. Second by Koser. Motions carried unanimously.

Citizen appearances other than on agenda items listed:

Ivy Otto appeared to advise she wishes to make structural repairs to her garage at 138 W. Church Street, but did not furnish materials in time to have her proposal placed on the meeting agenda. Sergeant advised that no action can be taken by the Commission at this meeting due to insufficiency of public notice. The matter will be placed on the Commission’s June 17 agenda for action.

Keith Henning, representing Boy Scout Troop 514, appeared to advise that the Troop wishes to make repairs and alterations to the “Boy Scout House” (f/k/a Bath House) at 321 Burr W. Jones Circle in Leonard-Leota Park. The Troop wishes to tuck point the concrete block perimeter walls; apply soffit material to the exposed wooden rafters; replace the existing door on the east façade with a 36” wide door for accessibility; replace the existing plywood door coverings on the south and west facades with brick or concrete block that would contrast with the original construction; and replace the plywood coverings at all windows with glass block.

The Troop and the Park & Recreation Board are aware that the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) must be furnished with information to evaluate whether the proposed work would have an adverse effect on the historical nature of the park, which is listed on the State and National Registers of Historic Places. Decker noted that the structure is deemed to be a contributing element to the park’s historical character and is the oldest structure in the park (1924-25). He will furnish Henning with the forms used by the Commission to gather the information required to be submitted to the SHPO.

**Applications**

132 W. Liberty Street. – Motion by Koser to accept the application. Second by Decker. Abe Schulz appeared in support of the request to reconstruct a back yard deck to the same dimensions as the existing deck. The deck is not visible from the street side of the residence. Motion carried unanimously.

**New Business**

1. Community Development Director’s Report. Jason reported that work continues on the required update to the Smart Growth Comprehensive Plan and that a review is being done of zoning code provisions, including those pertaining to the Historic Preservation Overlay zoning.
2. State Historical Marker. Koser mover to authorize the placement of a 72” x 54” twin-post State Historical Marker at the east entrance of Leonard-Leota Park. Second by Ald. Lewis. For informational purposes Decker provided a draft of possible text for the marker, which is subject to approval by the Wisconsin Historical Society. Motion carried unanimously.

**Old Business**

None presented.

**Other Business**

1. Zoning inquiry. Sergeant noted a citizen inquiry he recently received concerning the former Konopacki property on S. First Street, which lies within the South First Street Residential Historic District. The new owner wishes to construct a two-car garage and wanted to know whether the existing carriage barn could be retained, or whether it needed to be razed to accommodate the new structure. Due to the large size of the lot, the carriage barn can be retained.
2. Building permit inquiry. Mayor Decker noted that there was some uncertainty among new staff members as to whether a building permit application would need to be completed, in addition to the Commission approval application form, on projects in the Historic District that were under the $1,000 threshold. Sergeant advised that a building permit application was required, but that no fee would be due for projects under $1,000.

**Adjournment**

Koser moved to adjourn. Second by Culbertson. Motion carried at 7:13 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

John Decker

Secretary

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