

**CITY OF BELVIDERE**  
**HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES**  
**April 25, 2023**  
**5:30 pm**  
**City Hall, 401 Whitney Boulevard**

**ROLL CALL**

**Members Present:**

Sonya Dobberfuhr, Chair  
Alexandra Omiotek  
David Larson  
Dawn Brooks  
Barbara Volk

**Staff Present:**

Gina DelRose, Community Development Planner

**Members Absent:**

Claudia Colla

Sonya Dobberfuhr called the meeting to order at 5:37pm.

**MINUTES:** It was moved and seconded (Larson/Omiotek) to approve the minutes of the March 28, 2023 meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None.

**NEW BUSINESS:** None.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**Work Plan**

**2023 Awards Program:** Gina DelRose stated that Commissioner Volk has nominated a house on West Lincoln Avenue for the Continued Excellence Award. Ms. DelRose stated that she agrees with Commissioner Volk's recommendation.

David Larson stated that the award winners could have signage placed in their yards in order to let the public know of their accomplishment.

Gina DelRose stated that she can look into the pricing and design and such signs.

David Larson commented on the cultural designation that historic structures can have.

Barbara Volk stated that there is a residence near Pearl and West 1<sup>st</sup> Streets that is always well maintained.

**Promotional/Fundraising Events:** Sonya Dobberfuhr stated that she is close to completing the background information for the downtown walking tour and hopes to hold tours on Saturdays throughout June. The cost would be \$10 per person and group sizes would be no larger than 15 people. Ms. Dobberfuhr stated that she wants to eventually make a history booklet that can be sold.

Sonya Dobberfuhr stated that she has completed an article regarding Historical Preservation to be published in the Boone County Journal.

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Sandie Omiotek stated that she has been researching garden tours and the proper way to conduct them. Ms. Omiotek stated that the biggest challenge will be finding participating properties, especially after the March storm damaged so many yards. Ms. Omiotek stated that 3-5 properties would be the ideal amount and if they are within walking distances to each other, that is even better.

Dawn Brooks stated that she is researching the driving the tour and would like to focus on the Original Belvidere Settlement era (1830s) instead of the more common Victoria era (1900s). Ms. Brooks stated that she is researching how and why Belvidere was settled and has learned that four out of the five town founders traveled by foot from the east coast.

David Larson stated that he is researching old newspaper articles for information regarding Belvidere during the Prohibition. Mr. Larson stated that there was a high profile arrest that occurred in Belvidere and there was a large distillery that was operated until the 1930s. Mr. Larson questioned how this information could be turned into a fundraiser.

The Commission discussed holding a lecture series, similar to the ones that the Boone County Museum of History hosts.

Barbara Volk stated that she is still working on ideas because she does not want to copy any existing fundraisers that other organizations host. Ms. Volk stated that she would like to the Commission to host a large 'blockbuster' event that could be held annually and referenced past events such as the vendors shows at the Funderburg Antiques.

Dawn Brooks suggesting hosting something at the Boone County Community Building.

Maintenance Small Grant: Gina DelRose stated that five applications have been received so far and they will be on the agenda next month to discuss and vote on.

Ms. DelRose stated that St. John's Church has almost completed their tuck pointing and will be submitting for reimbursement next month.

David Larson questioned if the solar panels were ever installed on the North Main Street residence.

Gina DelRose stated that she would verify.

10 Year Plan: Gina DelRose provided an overview of Chapter 4 and stated that it highlights the history of Belvidere.

Expenditures: No updates.

Friends of Preservation: No updates.

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

**Images of American Belvidere and Boone County**

Royalties: No updates.

Book Sales: No updates.

**DISCUSSION:** None.

**Staff Report:** Gina DelRose provided an update regarding the buildings that were damaged in the March storm. Since they are part of the North State Street National Registry District they qualify for tax credits. Ms. DelRose stated that representatives from the State came and met with the building owners to explain the financial incentive.

Dawn Brooks left at 6:50pm.


Barbara Volk left at 6:54pm.

Dave Larson stated that he believes that previous improper renovations of downtown properties create a more pervasive problem.

**NEXT MEETING DATE: May 23, 2023**

**ADJOURNMENT:** Meeting adjourned at 7:10 pm.

Recorded by



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Gina DelRose  
Community Development Planner