

**CITY OF BELVIDERE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
A G E N D A
Tuesday, December 6, 2022
City Hall Council Chambers
401 Whitney Boulevard
5:30 pm**

ROLL CALL

Members:

Sonya Dobberfuhl, Chair
Claudia Colla, Vice-Chair
Alexandra Omiotek
David Larson
Dawn Brooks
Vacant
Vacant

Staff:

Gina DelRose, Community Development Planner

Ex-Officio:

Clint Morris, Mayor

MINUTES: October 25, 2022

PUBLIC COMMENT

NEW BUSINESS: None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Work Plan

2023 Awards Program: None.

Promotional/Fundraising Events: Potential 2023 Fundraisers

Maintenance Small Grant: None.

10 Year Plan: Sections One and Two

Expenditures: None.

Friends of Preservation: None.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Images of America Belvidere and Boone County

Royalties- No update.

Book Sales- Sold out of Images of America Book.

DISCUSSION:

COMMUNICATIONS/PLANNING REPORTS:

Staff Report:

Next Meeting Date: January 24, 2023

ADJOURNMENT

CITY OF BELVIDERE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES
October 25, 2022
5:30 pm
City Hall, 401 Whitney Boulevard

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Sonya Dobberfuhr, Chair
Claudia Colla, Vice-Chair
Alexandra Omiotek
David Larson
Dawn Brooks

Staff Present:

Gina DelRose, Community Development Planner

Members Absent:

None.

Sonya Dobberfuhr called the meeting to order at 5:33 pm.

MINUTES: It was moved and seconded (Omiotek/Larson) to approve the minutes of the July 26, 2022 meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

Certificate of Appropriateness, 424 N. Main Street -

Gina DelRose explained the request to have solar panels mounted on the roof of the residence at 424 N. Main Street.

Dan Snow questioned why the request need a certificate of appropriateness.

Gina DelRose stated that since they are affixing a structure not original to the house a certificate of appropriateness is needed. Gina DelRose stated that many communities are torn on the appropriateness of solar panels since they are not a permanent change to the structure's integrity but rather a large change to the aesthetics of the property. Ms. DelRose stated that the National Park Service recommends that solar panels that are visible from the right-of-way be denied and those hidden from view be allowed.

Sonya Dobberfuhr stated that the solar panels are becoming more prevalent and have environmental impacts.

Dawn Brooks stated that she agrees with the National Park Service's recommendation.

Sonya Dobberfuhr stated that she approved of the panels being placed on the 1-story addition because it is not original to the residence to begin with.

David Larson questioned if approving the panels would be precedent setting or does the commission still get to review future solar panels on a case by case basis.

Gina DelRose stated that each future request would be reviewed on its own merits.

Dawn Brooks stated that since they are removable she is more favorable of the panels.

Sandie Omiotek agreed.

David Larson questioned what kind of damage the solar panels could cause the roof.

Gina DelRose stated that the building department requires proof of the roof's structural integrity and that it can adequately support the weight and installation of the solar panels.

Claudia Colla stated that she would prefer to adhere to the National Park Service's guidelines but due to the positioning of the residence, every side of the roof is visible from the right-of-way. Ms. Collar stated that she does not want to deter the use of solar energy but the decision is a complicated one.

Dan Snow questioned if the Commission can require a new Certificate of Appropriateness every time the panels get replaced.

Gina DelRose stated that they could.

Sonya Dobberfuhr stated that she prefers requiring a new Certificate of Appropriateness.

Claudia Colla questioned the meter boxes that connect to the existing ComEd meter.

David Larson stated that the property owner could construct a wooden box to conceal the utility meters.

Sonya Dobberfuhr stated that landscaping could also be used to conceal the meter boxes.

It was moved and seconded (Larson/Dobberfuhr) to approve the Certificate of Appropriateness subject to the following conditions:

1. The wall mounted panel boxes and utility meters shall be concealed with an aesthetically appropriate encasement and/or landscape approved by planning staff.
2. If any structural changes are made in the future such as a new roof or solar panels then a new Certificate of Appropriateness will be required.

Motion carried with a 5-0 voice vote.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Work Plan

2022 Awards Program: Gina DelRose gave an update on the awards program and stated that approximately 50 RSVPs have been received.

Claudia Colla offered her assistance if any commissioners are still needed to reach out to their recipients.

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Promotional/Fundraising Events: Fall Fundraisers: Gina DelRose stated that \$320.00 was made in ticket sales. Ms. DelRose stated that the catering bill is still outstanding and may need to be paid out of ticket sales.

Gina DelRose stated that all the teams had a good time and several asked when the next one will be. Ms. DelRose stated that some commissioners suggested having a "Ghosts of Belvidere's Past" theme for the next scavenger hunt. The locations will be of places that no longer exists so people can see what history has been lost and hopefully it encourages them to preserve what is left for the future.

David Larson stated that the Commission could organize another stained-glass window tour with the four remaining churches. The one held on April 2022 was well received.

Sonya Dobberfuhl stated that the Commission could host another progressive dinner.

Gina DelRose stated that she would contact Maggio's Pizzeria about participating in a fundraiser night.

Maintenance Small Grant: 406 W. Hurlbut Avenue Reimbursement: Gina DelRose stated that the exterior painting has been completed and pictures and a paid invoice were provided.

It was moved and seconded (Colla/Dobberfuhl) to approve the reimbursement of \$1,000.00 for the work completed at 406 W. Hurlbut Avenue. Motion carried with a 5-0 voice vote.

10 Year Plan: Gina DelRose provided a summary of Chapter 1 of the 10 Year Plan.

David Larson stated that it seemed non-specific but was interested in their reference to 'placemaking'. Mr. Larson stated that he believes it is a function of the Commission to provide support to the City Council, especially in this new economy, to help facilitate 'placemaking' decisions.

Dawn Brooks left the meeting at 6:45pm.

David Larson requested that the Downtown Strategic Plan be sent to him.

Gina DelRose stated that she will include Chapter 2 of the 10 Year Plan in the next packet for the Commission to review.

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:

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Staff Report: None.

NEXT MEETING DATE: December 6, 2022

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 6:55 pm.

Recorded by

Gina DelRose
Community Development Planner