

**CITY OF BELVIDERE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES
March 27, 2018
5:30 pm
City Council Chambers
401 Whitney Boulevard**

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

David Kummerow, Chair
Lisa Kummerow, Vice Chair
Anna Pivoras
Alexandra Omiotek

Staff Present:

Gina DelRose, Community Development Planner

Members Absent

Kris Bryan
Filitsa Platopoulos
Becky Tobin

With a quorum present, Chair David Kummerow called the meeting to order at 5:40 pm.

MINUTES: It was moved and seconded (L. Kummerow/Omiotek) to approve the minutes from the March 27, 2018 meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

NEW BUSINESS: None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Work Plan

2018 Awards Program: Gina DelRose stated that some of the previously discussed projects will not be completed in time. She provided a list of 5 award winners.

Gina DelRose questioned if the Commission wanted to serve the same menu as past years or serve a buffet style dinner.

Sandie Omiotek stated that she preferred the variety of multiple appetizers versus a dinner.

There was general discussion regarding various catering options and the cash bar.

Gina DelRose questioned if she could amend the invitation list and remove some of the names that never attend or respond. Gina DelRose stated that every year more people are added to the list so it has become quite lengthy.

Lisa Kummerow stated that amending the invitation list would be acceptable.

Anna Pivoras questioned if the Commission could ask for donations at the awards program.

Gina DelRose stated that she wasn't sure but would look into the matter. Ms. DelRose stated that there could be a message in the booklet about donations and fundraisers.

Gina DelRose stated that she thought it would be a good idea if the Commission highlighted their achievements from the past year and their goals for 2018.

Promotional /Fundraising Events:

Stained Glass Window Tour- Gina DelRose stated that she sent letters to the churches with stained glass windows but have not received any responses yet. Ms. DelRose stated that the various church boards may only meet once a month so that could explain the delay in responses. Ms. DelRose stated that she will assign each Commissioner a church to contact if she does not receive a response soon.

Sandie Omiotek stated that she will approach the Frist Presbyterian Church near her house.

Leath Warehouse Update: Gina DelRose stated that one RFP was submitted. It included some land uses that the City didn't originally contemplate but overall it was a good submittal.

Maintenance Small Grant: Gina DelRose stated that the grant deadline is not until March 31, 2018 (the upcoming Saturday). A total of four grant applications have been received so far. Two houses in the West Hurlbut Avenue Historic District are requesting grants, the new owners of the nationally landmarked Post Office building are requesting a grant and a locally landmarked residence is requesting assistance as well.

David Kummerow stated that he would be willing to approve full reimbursements for the two smaller projects and the Post Office Building but believes \$750 is more appropriate for the stair renovation.

Sandie Omiotek agreed.

Sandie Omiotek questioned the difference between local and national landmarking status and also questioned if commissioners were eligible for the grant.

Gina DelRose stated that members of the Commission were eligible for the grant.

Gina DelRose stated that local landmarks are regulated in terms of exterior renovations and are eligible for the maintenance grant. National landmarks have restrictions; they are however, eligible for tax credits and other financial incentives. Any work being paid for by these incentives must adhere to design regulations.

It was moved and seconded (Pivoras/L. Kummerow) to approve \$600 for tuck pointing at 228 West Hurlbut Avenue, \$487.50 for repainting of the porch at 704 North State Street, \$1,000 for window installation at 200 South State Street and \$750 for the renovation of stairs at 311 West Hurlbut Avenue. The motion carried unanimously.

10 Year Plan: Gina DelRose stated that she is still discussing the reimbursement with the state.

Expenditures: None.

Friends of Preservation: Gina DelRose stated that it was previously discussed to wait until the awards program to get feedback from attendees. Gina DelRose stated that she can have copies of the newsletter at the awards program as well.

David Kummerow stated that the grant winners should be invited to the awards program so that the Commission can publicize what their fundraising efforts support.

Anna Pivoras stated that she prefers to have a topic and presentation at each Friends of Preservation meeting.

Sandie Omiotek questioned if the Fire Department would speak about electrical and fire safety in the older residences.

Anna Pivoras questioned if someone could present on how to restore trim and remove paint from crown molding.

Anna Pivoras questioned if someone could present on why the older residences were designed with two staircases, two kitchens, etc. Many people don't know why their houses are laid out in such a fashion.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Images of American Belvidere and Boone County

Royalties: No updates.

Book Sales: No updates.

DISCUSSION:

Newsletter- No updates.

Fundraisers- David Kummerow stated that the next murder mystery dinner should have two separate tickets. One (at a lesser price) for those that want to watch and enjoy a nice meal and one for those that want to participate.

David Kummerow stated that the commission could have a cluster of smaller, more manageable events and presentations such as escape rooms and historic interpretations. Mr. Kummerow offered the Swift House as an event location.

Gina DelRose stated that the library been posting local historical figures on their Facebook page as part of Throwback Thursday. Ms. DelRose stated that the commission can use those postings to find interesting characters for the historic interpretations and ghost stories.

David Kummerow stated that the Commission could host a "Legends Night" which would include a sit down meal and impersonators.

Lisa Kummerow stated that the high school drama departments may be able to provide the talent.

Anna Pivoras stated that he museum staff can help in researching local residents from the past.

Anna Pivoras stated that Drew Pivoras already has a theme for the next murder mystery and it involves a ghost.

COMMUNICATIONS/PLANNING REPORTS:

Staff Report: Gina DelRose gave a status update of projects within the City of Belvidere.

NEXT MEETING DATE: David Kummerow stated that he will not be able to attend the April 24, 2018 meeting.

Lisa Kummerow stated that she would not be able to attend the meeting as well.

It was decided to have the next meeting on April 19, 2018

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 7:08pm.

Recorded by



Gina DelRose

Community Development Planner