

**CITY OF BELVIDERE**  
**HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES**  
**January 23, 2024**  
**5:30 pm**  
**City Hall, 401 Whitney Boulevard**

**ROLL CALL**

**Members Present:**

Sonya Dobberfuhr, Chair  
Claudia Colla, VChair  
David Larson  
Barbara Volk  
Alexandra Omiotek

**Staff Present:**

Gina DelRose, Community Development Planner

**Members Absent:**

Kim Coniglio  
Dawn Brooks

Sonya Dobberfuhr called the meeting to order at 5:35pm.

**MINUTES:** It was moved and seconded (Larson/Volk) to approve the minutes of the September 26, 2023. Motion carried unanimously.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None.

**NEW BUSINESS:** None.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**Work Plan**

**2023 Awards Program:** Gina DelRose stated that she felt the Library served as a nice space to hold the events.

Barbara Volk stated that she was disheartened by the award recipients that did not attend and also by those winners that seemed overly boastful.

David Larson stated that he would like to see the Commission present legislation to the Belvidere City Council to allocate City funds towards historic preservation.

Barbara Volk discussed the now defunct Main Street Program.

Gina DelRose stated that the lack of community buy-in, especially from property owners that live out of the area is a difficult thing to overcome in any community.

The Commission encouraged David Larson to draft a written proposal to submit to the City Council that they can review.

Barbara Volk stated that she would like to see new award recipients instead of the same people repeatedly being recognized.

Gina DelRose noted properties that are currently mid-renovation that may be worthy of an award once completed.

**Promotional/Fundraising Events:** Gina DelRose stated that Sonya Dobberfuhr created a book highlighting the history of South State Street and donated it to the Commission. The books are available to purchase for \$20.

Sonya Dobberfuhl discussed her book.

Barbara Volk stated that she would like to see another Stained Glass Window Tour. Ms. Volk stated that the fundraiser was unique and appealed to many people.

Sonya Dobberfuhl stated that she would like to see another scavenger hunt and a sales event like Claudia Colla discussed previously.

Maintenance Small Grant: Gina DelRose stated that due to the lack of fundraisers during Covid and having smaller ones in 2023, the amount of available funds has significantly declined. Ms. DelRose stated that she would recommend decreasing the maximum amount of the grant from \$2,500 to \$1,000 which is what the limit was when the grant was created. This will prevent inadvertently misleading applicants that such a grant award is available.

Gina DelRose stated that another option is to not award grants in 2024 in order to allow the Commission to increase their fundraising efforts and the current funds to roll over into 2025. Ms. DelRose stated that one grant was awarded in 2023 and the recipient did not proceed with the renovation project because the amount awarded was not enough to make the project financially feasible for them.

It was the consensus of the Commission to not award grants in 2024 in order to increase the available funds in 2025.

10 Year Plan: Gina DelRose stated that she would include the Plan's goals and objectives in the next packet.

Expenditures: No updates.

Friends of Preservation: No updates.

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

Images of America: Belvidere and Boone County, Boone County Journal Postcard Books, A Walk Through Time

Royalties: No updates.

Book Sales: 2 postcard books at Hometown Christmas

**DISCUSSION:** None.

Staff Report: Gina DelRose provided an update on downtown restorations and businesses.

**NEXT MEETING DATE: February 27, 2024**

**ADJOURNMENT:** Meeting adjourned at 6:39 pm.

Recorded by



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Gina DelRose  
Community Development Planner