

**CITY OF BELVIDERE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES
March 26, 2024
5:30 pm
City Hall, 401 Whitney Boulevard**

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Sonya Dobberfuhr, Chair
David Larson
Kim Coniglio
Dawn Brooks
Alexandra Omiotek

Staff Present:

Gina DelRose, Community Development Planner

Members Absent:

Claudia Colla, VChair

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

MINUTES: It was moved and seconded (Brooks/Coniglio) to approve the minutes of the January 23, 2024. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

NEW BUSINESS: None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Work Plan

2023 Awards Program: Dave Larson recommended the building at 107 W. 1st Street.

Gina DelRose recommended the building at 711 S. State Street.

Promotional/Fundraising Events: Sonya Dobberfuhr confirmed that the Commission's intention is to still hold the stained-glass window tour and scavenger hunt fundraisers.

It was decided to hold the stained-glass window tour in September and the scavenger hunt in October.

Sandie Omiotek stated that she would like to host the garden tour but needs to finish cleaning up storm damage first.

Dawn Brooks stated that she would call local restaurants regarding fundraising opportunities.

Dave Larson questioned Walmart's charity program.

Gina DelRose stated that typically you have to have a specific event or need to reference in the application and at the moment she cannot access their grant portal.

Maintenance Small Grant: None.

10 Year Plan: Gina DelRose stated that this will be addressed during Dave Larson's discussion.

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: Gina DelRose stated that so far \$490 has been raised through the A Walk Through Time book sales.

Sonya Dobberfuhl stated that the Boone County Museum of History has been selling a lot of books and that she was going to approach CTEC Shack about selling the books in their local authors section.

Gina DelRose stated that there are still copies of the postcard books that Dave Larson donated on behalf of the Boone County Journal for sale as well.

Gina DelRose thanked Dave Larson and Sonya Dobberfuhl for their fundraiser books.

DISCUSSION: Dave Larson questioned what the boundary of the City's historic downtown is and whether or not the Commission believes that the market will take care of itself in preserving the cultural heritage and historic architecture. Or if the Commission's current efforts solve the problem. Mr. Larson stated he believes the answer to both questions is no and that the issue comes down to finances.

Dave Larson stated that many groups provide ideas but they are unproductive and that he would like the City to have the economist (Region 1) analyze a "what if" scenario similar to a TIF District.

Dave Larson stated that he would like to see what impacts preservation will have in regards to sales tax, property tax and community health versus doing nothing.

Sonya Dobberfuhl stated that she believes such a request of the City Council is outside the scope of the Commission. Ms. Dobberfuhl stated that she also does not believe the City Council will approve a tax increase.

Dave Larson stated that the Commission is a subcommittee of the City and when he was chairman previously, he got the Council to approve legislation that related to certificates of appropriateness. Mr. Larson stated that he believes the Commission can submit ideas to the City Council because the Commission serves the intentions of the City and the City Council.

Dave Larson stated that the Commission should challenge the City and that its the Commission's function. Dave Larson posed the questioned of "What if things are different, would the City be better off?".

Sonya Dobberfuhl stated that such a project would need the support of the impacted property owners.

Dave Larson agreed and stated that not only would it include the buildings but the underground infrastructure and engineering needs as well.

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Gina DelRose stated that Chapter 58 of the Belvidere Municipal Code outlines the functions of the Commission. Certificates of appropriateness, landmarking, historic districts, community outreach are functions of the Commission.

Sonya Dobberfuhl stated that such a request of the City should come from impacted property owners, not the Commission.

Gina DelRose stated that if the property owners control the money and how it is used, she believes that such a project is outside the scope of the City Council. Ms. DelRose stated that such a program sounds more like a property owners association or a cooperative.

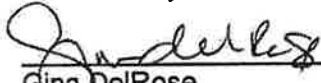
Sonya Dobberfuhl stated that she feels it is more appropriate for the Commission to offer the property owners support in their preservation endeavors.

Staff Report: Gina DelRose stated that she has received several inquiries from potential new businesses in town.

NEXT MEETING DATE: April 23, 2024

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 6:33 pm.

Recorded by



Gina DelRose
Community Development Planner