

**APPROVED MINUTES OF THE  
ROCK ISLAND PRESERVATION COMMISSION**

Regular Meeting

4:00 p.m.

August 25, 2010

Location: Personnel Conference Room, Rock Island City Hall, 1528 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue, Rock Island, IL

Attendance:            ( X ) Present            (   ) Absent

( X ) Steve Andich

( X ) Bob Braun

( X ) Lendol Calder

( X ) David Cordes

( X ) Kent Cornish

( X ) Jane Koski

(   ) Mark McVey

( X ) John Strieter

( X ) Stephen Warren

(   ) Jeff Dismer (Assoc.)

(   ) Daryl Empen (Assoc.)

( X ) Diane Oestreich (Assoc.)

(   ) Linda Anderson (Assoc.)

Staff Present: Alan Carmen, Jill Doak, Ellen Adams

Chairman Braun called the meeting to order at 4:03 p.m.

**Approval of Minutes of the July 28, 2010 Regular Meeting**

Commissioner Strieter moved to approve the minutes of the July 28, 2010 regular meeting.

Commissioner Cornish seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

**Revised Section 106 Review for 600 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue, which is also known as Thurgood Marshall School (Formerly Grant School)**

Ms. Doak gave the staff report. She explained that if there is a federal undertaking on a potential historic property, that property is evaluated for whether or not it could be eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. In January the Commission determined that Thurgood Marshall School could potentially be eligible for listing. Therefore, any effect that would be part of the federal undertaking must be listed as "no effect" or "adverse effect". The Commission decided that proposed sleds mounted on the building's roof would cause no adverse effect given its location and lack of visibility. It was later determined that the load for the roof would not be sufficient for the sled mounts, so there is a proposal to switch the type of system to chimney surround mounts. Staff recommends that the Commission comment to IHPA that the new proposed mounts will cause no adverse effect on the historic property because its design is virtually invisible and the change is easily removable.

Commissioner Cornish asked what the antennas are for.

Ms. Doak explained that they are for wireless communications hosted by iWireless.

Mr. Carmen added that it is typical for cell phone companies to lease space from tall buildings to use for their antennas.

Commissioner Oestreich stated that these mountings are less obtrusive to alternatives such as towers.

Commissioner Braun added that passerby will not be able to notice the alteration.

Commissioner Cornish moved to accept the staff recommendation for a comment of "no adverse effect" to IHPA regarding the proposed chimney surround mounts on Thurgood Marshall School.

Commissioner Cordes seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

**Recap of Weatherization and Energy Efficiency Seminar**

Ms. Doak reported that there were 63 people in attendance and feedback was generally positive. Attendees, especially from other communities, were appreciative that this type of workshop was being offered. There were many comments about the energy audit. However, it was not mentioned that participation in rebates for

purchase of things that may enhance the energy efficiency of your house needs to be done within 90 days of the energy audit. Hold off on getting the energy audit done until you are ready to make purchases.

Several Commissioners shared their thoughts on the workshop and speakers.

Ms. Doak said that she thought about doing an evaluation of the event, but decided against it since the Commission will probably not offer this type of seminar again.

Commissioner Braun inquired about Bob Yapp's mechanical systems talk.

Ms. Doak replied that for not having much time to prepare, he did a good job in providing solid, basic information and tips that everyone can use.

Commissioner Cornish added that Yapp made the subject understandable on all levels and connected well with the audience.

Ms. Doak explained that Yapp had been thinking of doing a presentation on mechanical systems, anyway, since there is a hole in education for mechanical systems for old homes and he often gets questions on such systems.

Commissioner Streiter asked how many invitations she sent out and Ms. Doak replied that 2,000 were sent.

Commissioner Oestreich stated that Yapp is now training contractors to repair old windows.

Commissioner Braun read a thank you card from Maureen Stanley of 2605 17 Avenue regarding the weatherization workshop. She stated that the workshop was informative and well-organized.

#### **Update on 2009 CLG Grant: Lincoln School Mothballing**

Ms. Doak gave the update. Due to difficult economic times, Artspace would not be able to begin the Lincoln School project within six months, which is the term period of the grant. Instead, it was decided to pursue mothballing the building, a process which follows the National Park Service Preservation Brief 21. Three architects toured the school and submitted reports on how they would assess the building for mothballing. City Council approved Commissioner Braun's firm to perform the assessment. Once that is complete, the mothballing report will need to be submitted to IHPA to finish out the grant. Ms. Doak reported that the building has deteriorated quite a bit in the last few years; the west/northwest roof is full of holes.

Commissioner Braun stated that the building's condition is sad and could be an example of demolition by neglect.

Ms. Doak prepared the Commission that it will be very expensive to mothball the building. Some Council members may not want to spend any money doing so.

#### **Looney Epitaphs at Chippiannock Cemetery** – Saturday, August 28

Ms. Doak reminded the Commission that the event will take place from 1 to 3:30 p.m. with tours leaving every 15 minutes. There has been little publicity. Event organizer Greg Vogeles is concerned because the *Argus* has yet to interview him so the event will probably not be well-covered in the newspaper.

Commissioner Oestreich added that Broadway has an Unveiling the same day.

Ms. Doak said that Scott Nauman is the director of the event. He has done past Epitaph events and always brings in good actors.

Commissioner Streiter's wife and Commissioner Cornish and his wife will be volunteering. There is a rehearsal Thursday at 5:30 p.m.

#### **Highland Park Historic District Tour by RIPS** – Tuesday, September 21

Commissioner Oestreich told the Commission that the event will begin at 6:30 p.m. The RIPS is hoping that a house will be open for viewing, perhaps what used to be Rebecca Davidson's house, which is vacant and

owned by GROWTH. She asked for the opinion of Commissioners regarding when publicity should go out for the event- the Sunday before or 2 weeks before?

Commissioner Koski responded that a shorter period before the event may be more impactful.

Commissioner Oestreich said that the event is aimed at the public, but they hope Highland Park residents will attend, since many are new and do not know about their neighborhood. There will be guided tours of groups of 15-20 people. There will be refreshments and the event is free.

### **Ideas for 2011 CLG Grant**

Ms. Doak stated that the grant forms for the 2011 CLG Grant should come in soon. They are usually due between mid-October and November 10.

#### **A. Reproduction & Update of Picturesque Tri Cities (submitted by Carolyn/Ardo Holmgrain)**

Ms. Doak reported an idea for the grant that was submitted by Carolyn and Ardo Holmgrain, who are involved with Rock Island County Historical Society. Their idea is to do a sort of slideshow of *Picturesque Tri-Cities*, which is a bound volume of pictures of historic buildings in Rock Island, Moline, and Davenport that were issued every few months from 1900 to 1903. After some discussion with them, Ms. Doak felt a book reprint might work well.

Ms. Doak felt that this idea would require a partnered CLG grant with Moline. The Commission is not supposed to gain revenue through a CLG grant. Thus a limited amount of printed copies could be donated to libraries and schools for educational purposes and the master could be given to the RICHS to do another print run that they would sell. It is yet to be decided what this project would include. Some ideas include adding current pictures of the historic buildings and preservation-related text.

Commissioner Oestreich felt that a book such as this should be a conglomeration of historic views; she is unsure of the value of the project.

Overall, the Commission felt lukewarm towards the *Picturesque Tri-Cities* idea.

Commissioner Cordes inquired whether there are surveys that need to be done.

Ms. Doak replied that Suncrest and Post-War Subdivisions like Washington Park could be done, though surveys are expensive. The Commission would have to have a reason for doing the survey, i.e. preservation or public education. Ms. Doak is unsure what could be done with the survey.

### **Other Business**

Mr. Carmen informed the Commission that there has been a request submitted for a special use permit for a veterinary clinic at 2300 18<sup>th</sup> Avenue, across from Highland Park Historic District. A comment is needed from the Commission by September 13, so a Special Meeting will be necessary. The Commission agreed to meet on Thursday, September 2 at 4 p.m.

Commissioner Oestreich reported that there is a lady writing a book on George Studahauer and is looking for Studahauer houses in Rock Island. She also found an ornamental fence for Longview Park which was never used. The city may get some publicity in her book. Another lady is writing a book on O.C. Simonds. Rock Island may be mentioned in this book as well.

There being no further business, the Commission adjourned at 4:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Alan Carmen, Secretary  
Rock Island Preservation Commission