

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

Regular Meeting

4:00 p.m.

October 27, 2010

Location: Personnel Conference Room, Rock Island City Hall, 1528 3rd 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

(X) Mark McVey

(X) John Strieter

() Stephen Warren

(X) Linda Anderson (Assoc.)

() Jeff Dismer (Assoc.)

() Daryl Empen (Assoc.)

(X) Diane Oestreich (Assoc.)

Staff Present: Alan Carmen, Jill Doak, Ellen Adams

Others Present: Tim Ross

Chairman Braun called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m.

Approval of Minutes of the September 22, 2010 Regular Meeting

Commissioner Andich moved to approve the minutes of the September 22, 2010 Regular Meeting.

Commissioner Koski seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Advisory Session for Tim Ross, New Owner of 715 20th Street

Ms. Doak explained that the Advisory Session is intended to provide Mr. Ross with advice and direction for the possible installation of fencing in the back and front yards of his property, which is a Rock Island Landmark. No suggestions are binding and Mr. Ross will be required to appear before the Commission for a Certificate of Appropriateness when/if he has a proposal ready.

Mr. Ross stated that he would like to install a 6' wooden close board fence in the back yard of the property to prevent trespassing. The fence may be able to slide open over his driveway with an automatic opener. He may install an iron fence in the front yard.

Ms. Doak read the section in *Residential Design Guidelines* regarding appropriate and inappropriate fences for historic properties.

Commissioner Oestreich suggested a more open design for the top of the fence. She recommended looking at the fence at 830 22nd Street for inspiration.

Ms. Doak said that the Commission approved a solid fence in the back yard of a house in the middle of the block at 16th Avenue and 22nd Street.

Commissioner Cordes said that he understands Mr. Ross' desire to block off of his property and expand his living space. He instructed Mr. Ross not to build the tall wooden fence up to the front corner of the house. Commissioner Cordes also mentioned the Tom Sawyer historic fence style, which is built with vertical close boards.

Commissioner Andich asked Mr. Ross if the fence could be constructed without crossing the driveway so that a system for opening and closing the fence would not be necessary.

Mr. Ross explained that crossing the driveway is unavoidable.

Chairman Braun pointed out that snow build-up may cause problems for a rolling gate.

Commissioner Cordes suggested that the wood fence could have an iron gate.

Commissioner Strieter suggested a double sliding gate.

Commissioner Oestreich recommended using sturdy barn door hardware and a track for the moving gate.

Commissioner Calder said that maintenance was an issue when his former home had that type of system.

Ms. Doak suggested taking inspiration for the design of the fence from the front porch of the home, since the porch details are very old and unique. Also, the wooden fence could step down to an iron fence at a certain point in the side yard.

Commissioner Oestreich said that the fence at 848 20th Street is based on a picture from 1890 and is good example of a historic wooden fence.

Commissioner Anderson said that while the Commission is flexible regarding back yard fencing, any fence that can be seen from the street will be more strictly regulated. She said that the fence company that constructed the fence on her property designed a lattice top based on design ideas she provided.

Mr. Ross said that he would like to remove the paint from the side of the house to expose the brick.

Commissioner Oestreich said that old brick tends to be soft from years of weathering. Without paint, brick will powder. Also, the process of removing the paint is bad for the brick.

Commissioner Cordes added that brick should not be sandblasted. Also, the brick that is revealed when the paint is removed may not be in good condition.

Ms. Doak said that the color of the brick can be changed since paint color is not regulated by the Commission.

Commissioner Cordes said that the current paint color on the brick is very close to the color that the actual bricks would be.

Comment on Board of Zoning Appeals Case for 843 20th Street

Mr. Carmen gave the staff report. He explained that the property owner plans to rebuild the front porch of the home by replacing the framing, decking and posts. The owner would also like to enclose the porch with deck to ceiling screens. This plan triggered a variance requirement from the Board of Zoning Appeals. The house sits across the street from two Rock Island Landmarks. Staff recommends the Commission comment favorably to the BZA because enclosing the porch will have no adverse effect on the landmarked properties across the street.

Commissioner Oestreich said that the reconstructed porch will be an improvement to the property, since the current porch appears unstable. Also, the porch could easily be reopened in the future.

Commissioner Cordes made a motion to accept staff recommendation for favorable comment on the BZA case for 843 20th Street. Commissioner Strieter seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Discussion of 2011 CLG Grant Application

Ms. Doak reported that she spoke with Steve Wilke-Shapiro from the Des Moines Rehabbers Club again, resulting in further information to provide to the Commission. The Des Moines Rehabbers Club website has how-to type information under its 'useful information' section. So that the Commission's website could use this and other existing information from various sources, Ms. Doak suggested possibly adding a budget line item for purchasing sharing rights to post information created by someone else. Another possibility would be to provide links to the website of the person/group from which the content was borrowed. This option was viewed more favorably by the Commission.

Ms. Doak explained that in the 'Contractors' section, contractors can be tagged for single or multiple categories.

Ms. Doak said that the price for the domain name and web hosting will be covered by the grant for a five-year period. This will relieve the Rock Island Preservation Society of financial burden. Consultant travel fees were also added to the budget, since the Commission will want to meet with the consultant at least three times throughout the website formation process. If the grant gets funded, the Request for Services (RFQ) for consultants will go out in the spring of 2011 and the consultant will be hired in June. The website should be completed by December 2011.

Commissioner Anderson asked if Mr. Wilke-Shapiro's "website in a box" would include a certain amount of actual how-to information.

Ms. Doak replied that if Mr. Wilke-Shapiro is hired as the consultant, he would be willing to share information from the Des Moines Rehabbers Club website.

Commissioner Anderson asked if there would be a monthly fee for the website platform.

Ms. Doak replied that Drupal, the software that created the Des Moines Rehabbers website, is free software that is in a public sharing group. Ms. Doak read critiques of Drupal and found that those who work with Drupal frequently find it very useful. However, it is quite sophisticated and is difficult for novices to navigate. Drupal is very widely used by many platforms. However, some website hosts do not allow this kind of content management system to coexist, or do not have the capacity to absorb them. For this reason, the Commission may have to contract with another host. This would cost about \$150 a year, which would be built into the grant budget.

Commissioner Oestreich said that the RIPS website uses GoDaddy.com as a host.

Ms. Doak reported that she added funds to the budget for training the administrator. Mr. Wilke-Shapiro will provide an estimate for the cost of the initial setup so that the grant budget can be completed.

Commissioner Anderson asked if the site's registered users would be able to opt out of generated emails.

Ms. Doak said that emails alerting users to new activity on the site will result in more frequent visits. Also, all comments must go through the webmaster before they are posted.

Commissioner Cornish said that it is important to write the grant broad enough to allow for flexibility and gradual change to the website.

Ms. Doak said that the expressed scope of the project must be specific enough to allow Mr. Wilke-Shapiro to make an accurate cost estimate.

Commissioner Oestreich said that the search function should be smarter than that of the Des Moines Rehabbers Club website.

Other Business

Commissioner Oestreich said that individuals interested in purchasing a historic Tudor home in Rock Island inquired to Mr. Carmen about the home's history. Commissioner Oestreich conducted research because little was known about the property. The property address changed when Steepmeadow Apartments was constructed. Prior to that, the house did not appear in the city directory. The house was built by the Marshall family for Charles Marshall in 1927. A picture of the house was printed in the *Argus* at that time.

Ms. Doak reported that Drake Daley, the city's construction officer, went to the Traditional Building Conference in Chicago. He came back with a windows video that the Commission may find useful.

Commissioner Cordes informed the Commission of a helpful website for hot water/steam heating systems called www.heatinghelp.com. The website contributors include some of the most knowledgeable steam heating people in the country.

Ms. Doak said that the City of Decatur has announced a Call for Presentations for their annual old house workshop, if anyone is interested in presenting or attending.

There being no further business, the Commission adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Alan Carmen, Secretary
Rock Island Preservation Commission