

# **SPRINGFIELD HISTORIC COMMISSION**

Minutes: January 27, 2015

Present: Kerry Barbero  
Bruce Berg  
Kuri Gill  
Emily Scherrer  
Vincent Martorello  
Staff Molly Markarian  
Councilwoman Sheri Moore

Guest: None

Excused Absence: Dannie Helm

Where: Jesse Maine Room  
Date/ Call to Order: 01/27/2015 at 5:30 p.m.

## **ITEM 1: Public Comment**

There were no comments.

## **ITEM 2: Minutes Approval**

The minutes from the November 25, 2014 meeting were approved as presented.

## **ITEM 3: Election of Officers**

The following were voted as officers for 2015: Commissioner Hilton for Chair; Commissioner Helm for Vice Chair; and Commissioner Barbero for Secretary.

## **ITEM 4: Historic Moment**

Commissioner Barbero presented her Historic Moment on the farmhouse located at 6022 Thurston Road in Springfield. The farmhouse, an 1889 construction, is known historically as the Seever-Baugh House after its first two owners. It is one of the oldest homes in the Thurston area of Springfield. The current homeowner is interested in getting the house listed on the local register. Barbero has met with the homeowner as part of that process.

## **ITEM 5: Land Use Applications**

Staff Markarian reported that the City recently determined that a tree at the 630 E Street property was diseased, and so the tree has been cut down.

## **ITEM 6: Fry and Rankin Building**

Commissioner Gill stated that the CLG should consider revisiting the Fry and Rankin Building as a potential National Register nomination project. It currently is not eligible due to some incompatible materials that have been applied to the façade, but she believes it wouldn't take much to change its status to eligible. She feels that the owner may be interested, but someone from the Commission would need to visit with him about the possibilities.

### **ITEM 7: Historic Review Fee Schedule**

Commissioner Barbero was informed last month by City staff that the application fees are \$2,447.20 for TYPE III Applications: Establishment of Historic Landmark Inventory. This would include adding a historic structure to the inventory. The cost breakdown includes a base fee, tech fee, and postage (to send out letters to neighboring properties). She also learned that the CLG would be required to pay application fees if it submitted an application on behalf of a property owner.

Commissioner Gill commented that the CLG could set up a program through a future CLG grant that could cover the cost of application fees. The program would need to be made available to the public to apply, and not just to one individual. This might be something for the CLG to consider, especially since there is already one homeowner that is strongly interested in having her property listed as noted above.

### **ITEM 8: Sub-Committee Reports**

Neighborhood Survey Sub-Committee: Commissioner Gill worked on the letter to go out to owners and residents of properties located within the Washburne Neighborhood Historic District. The letter is a follow up to the survey was conducted over the summer and results that came in from the survey. It was determined that many individuals didn't know the boundaries of the District and what the status of their property is in the District. The letter will address those matters and will explain what it means to be in the District, as well as the types of improvements that fall under the City's application review process.

Pre 1915 RLS Sub-Committee: Commissioner Hilton reported that data entry is in process. There are approximately 80 property records that still need to be updated/entered into the SHPO database. As part of the project the Sub-Committee is correcting errors in the database.

Exhibit Sub-Committee: Earlier in the month, Commissioner Hilton, along with Commissioners Helm and Barbero met with Ben Johnson, the new Executive Director of the Springfield Museum to introduce him to the exhibit project. The theme of the exhibit is Citizen Historians and will include biographical sketches of three prominent past historians. The exhibit will include the following subthemes/categories: Gone but Not Forgotten, Re-discovered Treasures and Gems, House Moves, and Oldest Standing Properties. One of the highlights of the exhibit will be the results of the Springfield Selective RLS (also referred to as the Pre 1915 RLS).

Lumber Heritage Sub-Committee: After the question was raised, Commissioners agreed that the CLG should still pursue the lumber heritage project. Not only does the subject matter have strong historical importance, but also the project, involving the writing of a historic context statement, was planned for in the most recent grant application. Because the total project budget is under \$5000, the City is not required to issue a Request for Proposals (RFP). It was decided at tonight's meeting that the CLG will request Informal Quotes from 3 consultants that meet SHPO qualifications. Commissioner Scherrer agreed to come up with the wording for an historic context statement informal quote request and Commissioner Martorello offered to help. Barbero agreed to provide a list of three consultants from the SHPO Consultant Directory who would be qualified for the project. The winning consultant will be the one that submits the lowest quote.

### **ITEM 9: Commissioner Updates**

*Commissioner Hilton* attended the National Trust Preservation Conference that was held in Savannah, Georgia back in November. He will prepare a summary report/notes on the conference for the CLG.

*Commissioner Barbero* visited the homeowner at 6022 Thurston Road in December. With help from Commissioner Hilton, she measured the property at that time in order to produce a plot for a TYPE III application. She also worked on data entry for the pre 1915 RLS with Commissioners Hilton and Helm.

*Commissioner Martorello* recently attended the Downtown Citizen's Advisory Committee as a new member on the Committee representing the CLG. He will be talking to DAC about the Commission's interest in having guidelines in place for historic buildings within the downtown. It is the right time to get guidelines in place, as there is interest for redevelopment projects that are likely to occur.

*Commissioners Gill, Scherrer and Berg* did not have anything to report at this time.

### **ITEM 10: Staff Updates**

Staff Markarian had no updates.

#### *Other Business*

Councilwoman Moore was asked at tonight's meeting whether or not the City Council has included the Code Revisions Project as one of their priorities. She agreed to check on that. Commissioner Hilton will draft a letter to the Council stating the importance of the code revisions project, how revisions to the existing code will benefit the Springfield community and make the process more efficient for City staff.

**Meeting** adjourned at 7:30 p.m. Minutes recorded by Kerry Barbero.

**Next Meeting:** Tuesday, March 24, 2015.