

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

Minutes

Wednesday December 17, 2014

6:00 pm

City Hall, One Batavia City Centre, Batavia NY

Members Present: *Larry Barnes, Joan Barton, Ashley Bateman, Sharon Burkel, Paul Schulte, Teresa Siverling*

Others Present: Julie Pacatte, Meg Chilano - Recording Secretary

I. Call to order

The meeting was opened at 6:01 pm by Chairperson Joan Barton.

II. Approval of minutes for November 19, 2014

Motion by: Teresa Siverling

Motion was made to approve the meeting minutes for November 19, 2014 with two corrections.

Seconded by: Ashley Bateman

Vote for: 6

Abstained: 0

Vote against: 0

III. Communications sent and received

A. Email from City Manager Jason Molino. Mrs. Barton reported that she received an email from Mr. Molino informing her that the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) budget would remain the same as last year. Mrs. Barton said that she believes the amount is approximately \$1,800.

IV. Old Business

A. 33 Ross Street. Mr. Barnes asked what is happening to the house on Ross Street. Mrs. Barton related that she had spoken with Mr. Colton. She said that Mr. Colton reported that he had started working on the interior in the middle of November and that he intends to continue through the winter months. According to Mrs. Barton, Mr. Colton plans to close on the property in spring and use it as his family home. Mrs. Siverling asked about Mr. Colton's business, and Mrs. Barton stated that his business is called Master Care Restoration Company. Mrs. Barton said that he is excited about his property and values the historic aspects. She said that she told him the HPC would be happy to offer any assistance they could as he works on restoring the property.

B. 101 Washington Avenue. Mrs. Barton informed the Commission that Dr. Frias had asked for suggestions about how to deal with the problem of the fence breaking because people continually sit on it. According to Mrs. Barton, she and Mrs. Bateman are hoping that the fence will be painted after the pre-treated lumber parts have weathered over the winter. Mr. Barnes reported that when he checked out the fence, he noticed that it had originally had light-weight joist hangers suspended between the rails. He clarified that by joists he means u-shaped metal brackets. He said that perhaps heavier weight metal might have done the job better. Mr. Barnes related that he and his wife had walked past 101 Washington Avenue to look at the fence. His wife's reaction was to say that if the fence is painted, it will look alright. Mrs. Siverling said that perhaps the contractor could smooth the support blocks to make them

look more finished. Mrs. Barton said that she would notify Dr. Frias that their suggestion is to finish the blocks, perhaps rounding the corners to make them look more finished, or possibly find heavier metal brackets that would be more substantial, and to indicate that painting is necessary.

V. New Business

A. Centennial Celebration Advertisement. At Mr. Barnes's request, Julie Pacatte, of the Batavia Development Corporation attended the meeting as a guest speaker. Ms. Pacatte made it clear that she was not speaking on behalf of the City, however, she did report her conversation with City Manager Jason Molino concerning the question of an HPC advertisement. Ms. Pacatte said that she was under the impression that the HPC had been asked to place an ad and she had relayed that understanding to Mr. Molino. Based on that understanding, according to Ms. Pacatte, his response was that the use of City funds for this committee are not best suited for advertising. Mrs. Barton clarified that it was she who had broached the idea of having the HPC place an ad after seeing an advertisement for the centennial publication. She said that she believes the HPC should be part of a centennial publication. Mrs. Siverling said that she viewed the ad as an opportunity for recruitment and to share some positive information about what the HPC can do for the community.

Ms. Pacatte stated that she would begin by relating the nature of the celebration and then bring the topic back to the Daily News advertisement. She said that it would seem to make more sense for the HPC to contribute to editorials rather than be involved in advertising. She suggested that an article about the HPC and what it does in the centennial publication might be more appropriate.

Ms. Pacatte gave the members the packets of information about the centennial celebration which had been used to solicit sponsorship in the business community even though the HPC would not be considered a typical sponsor. She said that the purpose was to help the HPC understand what was being asked of the community concerning sponsorship. She explained who and what were involved in the various levels of sponsorship and how the idea was to provide funding for the programs and celebrations that would take place throughout the year. Ms. Pacatte said that the Centennial Committee is open to participation by other organizations and described how the committee has been trying to coordinate with other groups to create joint activities. She observed that there are places where the HPC could fit it. Ms. Pacatte suggested that one opportunity for sponsorship might involve the time capsule and the possible idea for a "headstone" or marker for it.

Mr. Barnes stated that he would like to see an article in the publication but that he is not comfortable paying \$950 for an advertisement. Mrs. Barton responded that it was just an idea since Mr. Barnes had been absent from the last meeting, she had no information about what was going on with Vibrant Times or the centennial celebration. Mrs. Barton said that she believes the HPC needs to be involved in some part of the celebration. She pointed out that the HPC budget was barely used this year except for legal notices and postage. She said that she believes there is 1,300-\$1,400 in the account. Mrs. Siverling asked about the deadline for placing an ad and Mrs. Barton replied that it is in January. Mrs. Siverling then asked about the deadline for using the budget and Mrs. Barton answered that the deadline is March 31, 2015.

Mrs. Siverling asked Ms. Pacatte if the Vibrant Times (a publication of Vibrant Batavia) would be interested in an article on the HPC and she responded that it would but someone would have to write it. Mrs. Barton said that they could use a newsletter that they did a couple of years ago as a guide. She said that the appeal of the publication is that it will be delivered to 10,000 homes and businesses, and Mrs. Siverling added that with the possible departure of some of the HPC members, reaching out to the community for new membership is especially important. Before her departure, Ms. Pacatte spoke further regarding distribution and publication times of the Vibrant Times, and the HPC contributing editorials.

After Mr. Pacatte's departure, Mrs. Bateman asked what the HPC thought about the possibility of the HPC joining the Cemetery Association for a tour of historic homes. Mr. Barnes asked about the timing of the event, and Mrs. Bateman answered that it would take place May 9, 1-4 pm. Mrs. Burkel indicated that the event is a fundraiser for the Cemetery Association. Mr. Barnes asked if they have identified which homes will be used and Mrs. Burkel replied that Ashley [Bateman] and Jody [Fisher] are working on selecting them at this time. Mrs. Bateman reported that they have made selections from two concentrated areas and that the tours would be self-guided, with some kind of written background provided, perhaps a brochure. Mrs. Burkel asked Mr. Barnes about the guided tours he is working on questioned if there would be any time conflict. Mr. Barnes stated that the walking tour begins at the Holland Land Office Museum.

The driving tour starts at Batavia Downs, goes down North Street, around the Cemetery, and ends at Walnut Street. Mr. Barnes explained that the tours should not pose a conflict because they are self-guided. Written information will be provided and there will also be an audio component which can be activated using a smart phone. According to Mr. Barnes, WBTA will be involved in recording messages. Mrs. Bateman wondered if the Cemetery Association could try using the audio idea for their historic homes tours. Mrs. Barton asked if the driving tour would involve any of the Southside. Mr. Barnes said that it would not. Mrs. Barton said that even though some of the properties on the Southside have not been preserved as the HPC would wish them to be, there are nevertheless some historic buildings: the Pringle House, the Doty Mansion, and the brick houses on James Street. Mrs. Barton said that May is historic preservation month so it might be possible to put together a Southside driving tour then or maybe in August when there are no planned centennial events.

- B. Commissioner Terms Ending 12/31/14.** Mrs. Barton reported that she spoke with Mr. Emmans and he has not yet reapplied. Mr. Schulte said that he has not had time either but that he would take care of it. Mrs. Barton said that she was adamant about not serving as Chair again.
- C. Oliver's Sign.** Following a discussion on the iconicity of the sign at Oliver's, it was decided that Mrs. Barton would send a letter to the sign contractor suggesting that if the old sign cannot be repaired that the new sign should be reconstructed to look like the old sign.

VI. Adjournment:

Motion by: Paul Schulte

Motion was made to close the meeting at 7:04 pm.

Seconded by: Teresa Siverling

Vote for: 6

Vote against: 0

Respectfully Submitted,

Meg Chilano