

Florence Township Heritage Preservation Commission (HPC)
Tuesday, November 20, 2007 meeting minutes (pending final HPC Board approval)

Call to order:

Chair B. Flies called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Members present: Clay Ruggles, Char Henn, Joyce Engstrom, Andrea Hamilton, Cory Koplin, Bill Flies, and Dan Staker.

Secretary Report: The minutes of the October 16, 2007 meeting were approved as posted.

Treasurer's Report: Bill reported that the HPC's checking account had a \$560.49 current balance and with \$1,000.00 pending from Township HPC budget balance the pending balance is \$1,560.49.

As of November 20, 2007 Park's balance was \$9,638.37 with an estimated pending net accounts of negative \$5,500.00-consisting of the following projections:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| 1) Estimated Township Park Budget balance | \$2,000 |
| 2) Estimate of Survey Costs of Wakondiotia Park | (\$5,000) |
| 3) Estimate of cost associated with Valhalla Vista services | (\$4,000) |
| Parks pending net accounts | (\$7,000) |

This makes the projected parks balance in all accounts \$2,638.37

The Treasurer's report with the above balances was approved and accepted.

Town Board Meeting: Clay Ruggles, Township Supervisor, had nothing to report from the October 2007 town board meeting.

Design Review Applications:

Tom and Ann Johnson of 29219 Garrard Ave requested an opportunity to meet with the HPC board to discuss their intentions to attempt to subdivide and re-plat their property as a possible strategy to enhance the marketability of their property. Their property has been for sale and on the market for what they consider a protracted period of time and they feel they may have to do this to help with selling it. Due to the fact that their property is categorized as a Class I, Pivotal building within the Old Frontenac Historic District the Heritage Preservation Commission has to consider the possible negative effects that the subdivision they are proposing will have on the Historic District as a whole. Spacious homes like the Johnson's and the park-like grounds immediately surrounding it contribute greatly to the charm and character of Old Frontenac. The Johnsons have already taken certain preliminary steps of meeting with Goodhue county planning and zoning and have had a map drawn with the proposed subdivision shown. There is concern on the Commission and it was expressed to the Johnsons that there was opposition to their proposal.

Since the Johnsons were not submitting a DRA for the HPC Board's review at this meeting there was no HPC action other than a discussion taken on this item.

Completed Projects: Nothing to report.

Active Projects:

- Entire Board- Villa Maria's DRA: No communication to the board indicating any progress toward Villa Angela title resolution.
- Clay - Filling open HPC board positions: no new applications
- Andrea - Book Distribution: none
- Andrea - Bench sponsorships
There is now only one available bench sponsorship remaining.
- Park management:
Further Wakondiotia Park cleanup will wait until winter to resume.
- Park shelter upgrade: Joyce reported that Aaron Rubenstein would meet with her this upcoming weekend to start the design review process. With an Interpretative Center included in the in the upgrade there is the possibility of obtaining a CLG grant.
- Interpretative Center: The drafts of the CLG applications are due the by January 11th. See note from above item
- Park & Cemetery Survey and placing of markers – The plan is to obtain a bid from the surveyor. We also discussed using boundary markers. One idea was to cement treated 4X4's in the ground thinking this would be more economical than purchasing commercially available markers.
- Park Management area groups – Clay and Bill have been working removing the buckthorn plants in their respective areas of Valhalla Park.
- Valhalla Vistas - We will resume the Valhalla Vistas program by contacting a professional forester to begin marking the trees designated for removal, trimming, and replacement. Based on the experience from this spring it will be our attempt to notify any interested party by placing signage on the County Rd 2 roadside asking for their participation and input. There are residents along Garrard Avenue who are affected by the improvement of vistas and have indicated have may help offset a portion of the costs incurred.
- Walking Tour Brochure: Postponed until winter.
- Heritage Assets Management: The project to inventory and catalog the historic properties in our district as required by SHPO will be postponed until winter.

New Business:

- Historic District Guidelines and HPC's Charter:

Dan had a copy of the Historic Preservation Handbook published by the city of Farmington, Minnesota. Perhaps we could use some of the points contained within in the review of our guidelines. The handbook specifically mentions the teamwork involved in the implementation:

- 1) City government, i.e., the Mayor and City Council
- 2) The Heritage Preservation Commission an appointed advisory body
- 3) The City staff; including administrators, planners, building officials and code enforcement personnel.

Unfortunately we do not have all the same resources available to our HPC.

A good deal of the time was spent in discussing the Johnson's request (see Design Review Application agenda item above) both while they were presenting and a subsequent discussion among HPC members.

- Township Charter & Ordinances

Clay Ruggles mentioned that a law firm had recently contacted him asking for a copy of the active township charter and ordinances. Although some HPC members have copies of the HPC ordinances, it seems that they, along with other township ordinances, have not been filed correctly at the County level. This is further complicated by the failure to locate the original charter authorizing the formation, authorizations, and procedures of the town board. It was suggested that Clay contact Joan Marshman to locate such documents. To be discussed at the November 2007 Township Board meeting.

Planned Absences: Bill Flies and Cory Koplin will not in attendance at the upcoming Jan 2008 meeting. Dan Staker will be absent for the Feb 2008 meeting.

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM.

Next HPC Meeting: Although no regular meeting is scheduled for next month the possibility exists due to some business that may arise will necessitate a December 2007 meeting on the 18th. Otherwise the next meeting is scheduled for January 15th, 2008

Respectfully submitted,

Secretary, Dan Staker

Please inform me of any corrections or additions