

Belleville Historic Preservation Commission
Fire Administration Building
August 16, 2016

Attendance:

Members Present: Andy Gaa, Jack LeChien, Molly McKenzie, Ryan Wallis, John Hunter, Ashley Pollock, Doug Luna, Keith Owens

Staff: Eric Schauster

Guests Present: Larry Betz, David Braswell. Kurt Reickenberg

Opening:

Andy Gaa called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

Guest Participation:

David Brazwell discussed future work on properties at 617 and 619 E. Garfield and stated he planned to submit DRR's. He also discussed the condition of neglected properties in the 500 block of Abend. He said the old Wottowa Grocery Store at 523 Abend was five years in arrears on taxes and its mortgage was \$54,000. The owner of 523 Abend offered to give the property to the Belleville Historical Society.

Larry Betz discussed remediation of vacant properties with large tax liens. He said he met with Mayor Mark Eckert. Mayor Eckert suggest meeting with County Treasurer Charles Suarez and County Clerk Tom Holbrook. He also said that Dorothy Ebsen was seeking to donate a large amount of Buddy Ebsen memorabilia for display.

Officers' Reports:

Chairperson's report: Andy Gaa said there was nothing new to report.

Secretary's report: The July minutes were amended to note that Keith Owens was present and that a motion to "support the placement of four columns of approximately twelve feet each from the old St. Clair County courthouse at 125 Mascoutah Ave" passed. Ashley Pollock motioned to accept the July minutes and place them on file. Ryan Wallis seconded. The minutes were accepted by a unanimous voice vote.

Treasurer's report: Ryan Wallis report the city appropriation checking account was \$3,000. The HPC savings account accrued \$0.64 interest bringing its total to \$3,073.78. Molly McKenzie motioned to approve the report. John Hunter seconded. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

New/Old Business:

Doug Luna motioned to approve a DRR for 200 S Charles. John Hunter seconded. The DRR was unanimously approved with the stipulation that a replacement window for the garage be substantially similar and identical in size to the existing window.

Members discussed a DRR for 311 Mascoutah Ave with the owner of the property, Kurt Rieckenberg. Reickenberg agreed to attempt to repair existing first story windows and

understood repair did not require an additional DRR. Doug Luna moved to permit replacement of second story windows. Andy Gaa seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Members discussed updating the DRR submission form to require photographs.

Members discussed assisting with the placement of a plaque commemorating an October 3, 1961 speech by John Kennedy.

Update from Eric Schauster: The City Council accepted a proposal from the Southwestern Illinois Development Authority for rehabilitation of the Meredith Home. The Illinois Historic Preservation Agency has written a qualification letter for the National Historic Register which would permit the use of tax credits to rehabilitate the property.

Adjournment:

John Hunter motioned to adjourn. Ryan Wallis seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 8:34 p.m.