

CITY OF ST. CHARLES
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 19th, 2024 – 7:00 P.M.

Members Present: Rice, Smunt, Kessler, Pretz, Morin, Malay

Members Absent Dickerson

Also Present: Rachel Hitzemann, Planner

1. Call to Order

Ms. Malay called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

2. Roll Call

Ms. Hitzemann called roll with 6 members present. There was a quorum.

3. Approval of Agenda

Ms. Malay added item #11a – Camp Kane Update.

A motion was made by Mr. Kessler and seconded by Ms. Rice with a unanimous voice vote to approve the revised agenda.

4. Presentation of minutes of the June 5th, 2024 meeting

Dr. Smunt requested an addition to Item #5a – 1 W. Illinois Street – Dr. Smunt recommended increasing the set back of the south elevation equivalent to the width of one parking space.

Ms. Morin requested correction to Item #5a – 1 W. Illinois Street – Minutes read The Commission expressed concern on the color of the elevator shaft. Should have stated Commission expressed concern on the location of the elevator shaft.

A motion was made by Dr. Smunt and seconded by Mr. Kessler with a unanimous voice vote to approve the Minutes of June 5, 2024 as amended. Ms. Rice abstained.

5.. Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) applications

a. 203 W Main St.

Ms. Roshani Patel, Store Owner, presented COA to install on Channel Letter Box wall sign and 2-vinyl “Liquor” and “Wine” signs.

Dr. Smunt stated that architecturally the new sign crowds the space of the bay window and not the location to put this type of sign, so close to the trim, and it’s not balanced with anything on the north elevation. The word “Liquor” is already on the angle below the bay window. Dr. Smunt suggested possibility of a different location or better centered in the window.

Ms. Rice added she does not have a problem with having the sign but to maybe center it better in the window.

Mr. Kessler added he has gotten static from people in the neighborhood that the sign was overkill. I think the sign is in the wrong location. I don't think it should be on that side of the building.

Applicant advised the trees block the view when heading eastbound.

Ms. Malay added the sign is very bold, but looking at the signage that is already there the building is just screaming liquor. Ms. Malay recommended not having the sign that says Wine, Beer, and Spirits. Is there a possibility of putting this sign where the Beer, Wine and Spirits sign is located?

Ms. Morin added a typical Midwest building the advertising usually ends up on the lower section as the upper sections are residential. The signage in the first story level makes more sense.

Mr. Pretz added he likes the sign but not where it is being shown on the diagram. I would like to see it down where the Beer Wine and Spirits sign is located.

Discussion of moving the illuminated sign down it was brought to the attention of the Commission that the square sign stating Beer Wine and Spirits is no longer on the building.

A motion was made by Dr. Smunt and seconded by Mr. Kessler to table until applicant can return with current pictures and the new illuminated Liquor sign on the first floor of the building.

b. 407 S 5th St

Ms. Morin recused herself from discussion as location of home is a bordering property to her home.

Mr. Zach Derrico, Derrico Builders, presented COA to replace windows on existing home and replace front entry door.

Dr. Smunt stated if they are original windows the standards in the guidelines in the ordinance states the windows should be repaired and restored other than replaced. If deteriorated beyond repair, they can be replaced. Dr. Smunt asked for evidence the windows are beyond salvage, requesting pictures be presented.

Ms. Malay advised there are ways to restore windows and increase their efficiency.

Mr. Kessler asked for a window schedule showing which windows would be replaced and which windows would not be replaced.

A motion was made by Mr. Kessler and seconded by Ms. Rice to table until applicant can return with evidence the windows are beyond salvage and supply a window inventory list.

A motion was made by Dr. Smunt and seconded by Mr. Pretz with unanimous voice vote to approve front entry door for 407 S 5th Street.

6. Grant Applications - None

7. Landmark Applications

a. 504 Jackson Ave

i. Public Hearing

Ms. Malay acknowledged the Commission was moving into Public Hearing.

Mr. Pretz presented application for landmark status for home at 504 Jackson Ave.

Ms. Rice made a motion and seconded by Dr. Smunt with a unanimous voice vote to come out of public hearing.

ii. Recommendation

The Commission discussed the possible name options for the house.

Dr. Smunt made motion and seconded by Ms. Rice with a unanimous voice vote to recommend the City Council draft an Ordinance of Designation of landmark for the Wiemer House, Kilbourne Model for the following criteria listed on the application.

8. Preliminary Reviews- Open forum for questions or presentation of preliminary concepts to the Commission for feedback
None.

9. Other Commission Business

a. Façade Grant Discussion

Ms. Hitzemann reviewed changes from the Façade Grant Discussion.

10. Public Comment

Al Watts, Preservation Partners of Fox Valley, spoke on the Dam removal. Requested any ideas from the Historic Commission should the dam be removed.

Mr. Watts spoke on plan for the gardens at the Bieth House and the Shodeen project next door.

11. Additional Business and Observations from Commissioners or Staff

Ms. Malay met with Public Works concerning the door and the porch on the Law Office at Camp Kane. The sign that was put in the wrong location will be moved. The First Shot marker is being Stored by St. Charles Memorial Works. The original dedication sign will be picked up and restored by the Boy Scouts.

Mr. Pretz made an observation on attendance of the Historic Commission Meetings. The Commission has a responsibility to the citizens of St. Charles. Mr. Kessler added attendance is required per the Ordinance.

Mr. Kessler asked about the garbage enclosure discussed at the last meeting. Ms. Hitzemann stated she had talked to the Owners and they advised they will be putting in a COA for the current design.

12. Meeting Announcements: Historic Preservation Commission meeting Wednesday, July 3rd, 2024 at 7:00 P.M.

13. Adjournment

With no further business to discuss the meeting adjourned at 8:40pm.