

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING  
ALTON HISTORIC COMMISSION  
Tuesday, November 17, 2015 at 7:00 pm**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Doug Bader, Monica Mason, Mary Anderson, Diane Plummer and Matt Asselmeier

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Jonas Janek

The meeting of the Alton Historic Commission was called to order by Doug Bader at 7:06 pm on November 17, 2015.

Diane Plummer moved to accept the minutes as presented from the September 15, 2015 meeting. Mary Anderson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**APPLICATIONS:**

The commission took up the application for **503 E 12<sup>th</sup> St.** Eric Heischmidt, the homeowner, took the floor. Heischmidt stated that he currently has a fence, but he would like to replace it and extend it 4' – 5' across and down to connect with the garage. He stated he has two different options for the design. One option uses 18" of stone on the base of the fence with a 4'6" fence sitting on the stone. He would take this along the north side of the property, but the rest of the fence would be 6', without the stone base. The 2<sup>nd</sup> option is 6' fence, without the stone base. He stated that it would all depend on the cost of the materials. Heischmidt stated that he wanted to bring the fence out past the front of the house to the two trees in his front yard. Doug Bader explained to Heischmidt that City Code did not allow a 6' fence past the front of the house. Matt Asselmeier stated that he would have to before the Zoning Board of Review for a Special Use Permit to allow the fence to be 6' in the front. Based on City Code if the fence goes past the front of the residence, the fence could only be 4' in the front. Bader stated that if a motion was made and passed through the Commission, Heischmidt would have to talk with a building inspector about the height of the fence in the front the property.

Monica Mason made a motion to approve both locations and both designs as put forth on the application. Mary Anderson seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Bader then asked Heischmidt about two windows that were out of the house. Heischmidt stated that those two windows were out being repaired. He stated that he has already had two windows repaired.

**MIDDLETOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT INVENTORY:**

Matt Bivens was unable to attend the meeting. Bader asked Matt Asselmeier to contact Bivens to see if he would be available to come to the next meeting, December 1<sup>st</sup>, if not then possibly the December 15<sup>th</sup> meeting. Bader stated that he would like to have Bader meet with the commission before scheduling a public hearing.

**TRANSFER OR LOAN OF HOUSE INVENTORY PHOTOS TO HAYNER LIBRARY:**

Bader stated that he has not talked with anyone at IHPA about the photos as of yet, so he has nothing to report at this time.

**2016 CALENDAR:**

The 2016 Calendar was then presented.

Monica Mason made a motion to accept the 2016 Calendar as presented. Diane Plummer seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

It was suggested that the commission meet at least once a month, even if there were no applications. It was discussed if there wasn't meetings on the first Tuesday of the month that the commission would meet on the third Tuesday to go over the previous minutes, conduct any new business and answer any comments from the public. Basically it would be considered a maintenance meeting. A motion was not made, but it was agreed by all commissioners present that this would happen except during inclement weather.

Matt Asselmeier explained to the commission that next Tuesday the Plan Commission would be taking up an application for the Ursuline Convent to be converted into an assisted living complex. Bader asked if Asselmeier knew when the convent had been built. Asselmeier stated the cornerstone on the main building stating that the convent was built in 1925. Bader stated that the new owners of the convent might want to check with IHPA to get the main building on the Historic Register. If they were able to there could be a Historic Tax Credit available to them.

Diane Plummer had questions about the columns on the house at 925 Langdon. It was discussed at a previous meeting that the columns in question were not the design that had been approved at the August 4<sup>th</sup> meeting. Mary Anderson stated she thought she had sent the picture to either Doug Bader or the secretary, Debbie Beck. Both Bader and Beck stated that they had not received any photos. She stated that she would check on her computer and re-send them.

Matt Asselmeier then reported to the commission that starting in January, 2016 any records pertaining to city business that are e-mailed or texted cannot be deleted without a permission to destroy from the State of Illinois. Bader stated that from now on any e-mails that are sent should be cc'd to Beck so they can be archived. Asselmeier also wanted to remind everyone not to text each other during meetings. If they did and a person noticed it could open the individual up for a FOIA on their phone.

There being no further discussion or comments from the public, the meeting was adjourned at 7:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie J. Beck  
Secretary