

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
ALTON HISTORIC COMMISSION
Tuesday, May 3, 2016 at 8:00 am**

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jonas Janek

OTHERS PRESENT: Ray Strebel, 620 East 4th Street, and Joshua Young

The meeting of the Alton Historic Commission was called to order by Doug Bader at 8:03 am on May 3, 2016.

Doug Bader introduced and welcomed new Commissioner Charlene Walker.

Mary Anderson moved to accept the minutes of the April 5, 2016, with the amendment to change a sentence on page 2 to read, "He stated that possibly, in the 1970's, when the historic district was established, if a home owner did not want to be in the district, the boundaries reflected that opinion." Monica Mason seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

APPLICATIONS:

The commission took up the application for **620 East 4th Street**, Ray Strebel then took the floor. Mr. Strebel stated that he wanted to re-side and alter the porch of the subject property. He wanted to go with a German look because the area was settled by Germans. Mr. Strebel presented rough sketches of the new look of the property, which are included at the end of the minutes. He desired to rip off the porch and expand both the width and length of the porch. The battens would be 1X6 with hidden seems. The concrete sheeting would be a yellowish/cream color. He plans to install 4 6X6 rectangular posts for the front porch. These would be "timber wood" in color. The posts would be stained to match the battens. There would be 2 pilasters. The railings would be 2X6. The porch roof would be pressure treated and stained. The wings would be removed. The battens would be on top of the sheeting and all would be hardie board. Mr. Strebel was considering placing a diagonal line under the front windows if the image was not too busy. If it looked good, the diagonal line would be carried onto the other sides. The commission had no objections to this idea. The awnings would be removed. At the auction for this home, it was stated that the building was constructed in 1940s, but the building is probably much older than that date. The building is a single-family residence.

Mary Anderson made a motion to accept the application as presented. Diane Plummer seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

CLG Report:

The commission looked over the draft CLG report. Doug Bader requested that it be noted that some of the applications were approved with alterations to the original proposal and that the construction date be removed from the notation related to 400 Landmarks Blvd. Monica Mason will confirm that her

training information is complete. In addition, the city will send the agendas for the 2015 meetings instead of all of the applications.

New Business:

There was no new business at this time.

Comments from the Public:

Joshua Young, Democratic Precinct Committeeman for the 22nd Precinct, then took the floor. Mr. Young asked how old a building needed to be for historic designation. Doug Bader responded that no rule existed for local designation and that a building must be 50 years old for national designation. Mr. Young stated that properties belonging to African Americans are not shown on the 1916 Sanborn Maps and that many of these structures have been demolished with no markers commemorating their existence. Doug Bader stated that anyone could nominate an existing building and that part of Matt Bivens' job was to inventory and note structures that contributed to the Middletown Historic District. All of the 19th century school buildings in Alton have been demolished. Mr. Young questioned why the application for a local district was architecturally focused. He would like to see a social/cultural focus option. Doug Bader explained that , for national register applications, an applicant can go that route, but it requires lots of photos and documentation. The application goes to the state, is forwarded to the local commission, then goes back to the state, and finally is reviewed by the Department of Interior. For city designations, the city's ordinances govern the review process. Discussion occurred regarding Ray Strelbel's application as an expression of culture through architecture. Mr. Young stated that his application would be for cultural and not architectural significance. The application will be reviewed after submission. Doug Bader stated that the Koenig House was a locally designated landmark. The commission approved the designation for the Grand Theater, but the City Council overturned the commission's decision. Mr. Young stated that no markers for African Americans were located in the historic districts. Discussion occurred regarding updating the city's criteria to include more cultural aspects based on the Department of Interior standards. Mr. Young stated his desire to work with the commission to amend the ordinance. Discussion occurred regarding honorary districts and Community Development Block Grant funds spent in the historic districts.

Discussion occurred regarding the recent meeting in Edwardsville organized by IHPA. Mary Anderson reported that groups from all over attended the meeting. A list of issues was shown and it was decided to table the discussion reference this list of issues and IHPA services for a future meeting.

There being no further discussion or comments from the public, the meeting was adjourned at 8:48 am

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew H. Asselmeier, MPA, AICP
Commissioner









