

MINUTES
BLOOMINGTON HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING,
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2019 5:00 P.M.
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL
109 EAST OLIVE ST.
BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS

MEMBERS PRESENT: Ms. Sherry Graehling, Ms. Ann Bailen, Mr. Paul Scharnett, Mr. John Elterich, Ms. Georgene Chissell, Mr. Levi Sturgeon, Chairperson Lea Cline

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Ms. Casey Weeks, Assistant City Planner; Mr. Bob Mahrt, Community Development Director

- I. CALL TO ORDER:** Chairperson Lea Cline called the meeting to order at 5:03 P.M.
- II. ROLL CALL.** Ms. Weeks called the roll. Seven members were present and quorum was established.
- III. PUBLIC COMMENT.** No public comment
- IV. MINUTES.** The Commission reviewed the minutes of the November 21, 2019 meeting. Mr. Scharnett made a motion to approve as amended, Mr. Elterich seconded. The motion was approved (7-0-0) with Voice Vote.
- V. REGULAR AGENDA**

A. The Lakota Group will give a presentation of the process to create the Preservation Plan for Bloomington.

Mr. Nick Kalogeresis, Associate Principal of the Lakota Group, gave a presentation and overview on the process to create the Preservation Plan. A Preservation Plan is a comprehensive plan looking to the future how to preserve the past. It will provide guidance on how to address historic preservation in the City. They will look at the role preservation plays in economic development. A Preservation plan contains a statement of goals and priorities. The Lakota Group will look at how to promote an ethic of preservation and quality of life for the future. Educate and advocate preservation for future generations. It will address how to strengthen the preservation program, and integrate preservation into all planning programs. Educating the community on preservation. August – September is the deadline to complete the preservation plan.

The Lakota Group will look at what the current process is to designate landmarks and how to improve on it. They will determine where the future landmarks and districts are that the City needs to protect. Looking at future areas to survey. Identify future districts and landmarks and downtown revitalization strategies, and encourage more adaptive reuse, and use incentives. Mr. Kalogeresis stressed the importance of having private sector support and advocacy, and they will do outreach to help secure that support.

Two phases – The State of the city, field work, community open house to get feedback. April – State of the City Report giving existing conditions. Second workshop to present the plan and get feedback. Meet with stakeholders and steering committee to craft the plan to meet the needs of the community. The final plan will have a set of goals and strategies. Finish plan in August 2020.

Mr. Nick Kalogeresis will focus on an economic development plan along the lines of the Main Street Program to development strategies and incentives, and to build a ground swell of public support for preservation. The Lakota Group will give a national perspective on how to improve economic development.

Steering committee for the preservation plan – A list of group affiliations was given to the HPC members to get feedback on which stakeholders to include in the steering committee. The groups include City staff, McLean County Museum – Rt. 66, McLean County Museum, three historic neighborhood group members, residential realtor, commercial realtor, non-profits and community organizations, Downtown Business Association, Finance/Legal, HPC Commission member, Planning Commission member, Zoning Board of Appeals member, IWU.

Other suggestions that were made include someone from the David Davis Mansion, the Old House Society, and an architect. Bob Mahrt would like to have the steering committee organized by late January – February. HPC is an advisory body to suggest members to include on the steering committee. Representation includes neighborhoods on the east and west sides of town from the Roosevelt Historic District and Dimmitt's Grove H.D.

VI. OTHER BUSINESS:

A. Financial Report of the Funk and Rust Grants – Transfer Rust Grant funds into the Funk Grant on an ad hoc basis as the grants are applied for.

VII. NEW BUSINESS:

Levi's term will be ending in April 2020. He also has a class on Thursday that will not allow him to attend meetings from January through April.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Scharnett motioned to adjourn. Seconded by Ms. Bailen, the motion was approved unanimously by voice vote (7-0-0).

Respectfully Submitted,
Casey Weeks, Assistant City Planner