

Narrative to Nicole Aranas to be presented at a Village staff meeting for the purpose of garnering staff opinions. March 31, 2016

Let me give you my thoughts on changing the name of the Commission.

- 1) The Commission was formed before the Society, hence it took the name Historical Commission because the Village was in the midst of the Village Centennial and had the responsibility for the historical events during that celebration. When the Society was formed, it was an offshoot of the Centennial and then became the go-to for all objects, memorabilia and documents that people had to donate.
- 2) The Commission became the overseer and had a mission to cooperate with and assist the Society but the ultimate purpose was to preserve all things historic in Lombard. This responsibility is still our reason to exist. The Commission is the legal arm of the Village and if you recall one of the conversations we had on February 17th, I wondered how we could further explain the position of Archivist in relation to the Commission and the Society. In addition, the Commissioners must be Lombard residents.
- 3) The Society is an educational organization and anyone can become a member and there are many out of town members. Their responsibility is to bring the history of Lombard to the attention of not just the residents but strive to create programs geared to bringing in tourists and to explain the many historical aspects of Lombard. This is true of the Victorian Cottage, the Sheldon Peck and the Lombard Cemetery. They also are the main tour guides to the history of Lilacia Park. They have events and programs that are meant to peak the interest of anyone visiting the area and our residents, as well.
- 4) The Commission takes on the bigger job of legally designating properties as Historical Landmarks and keeping a survey of all properties with historic value to the Village. When there is a Landmark that can benefit from State or Federal tax credits or real property tax freezes, they can assist in gaining information for individuals who are doing restoration and/or rehabs on the properties. They also are a review board for historic property owners who need advice for restoration or rehab criteria and methods. We have been asked in a number of situations for our review. We also had a role in the updating of the Downtown plan for the Community Development Department. Also, the Commission was the lead to the restoration of the Victorian Cottage, the Sheldon Peck Homestead and the procurement of the Carriage House and its move from it's original home on Grove Street. Our next objective is the National Register for a number of properties in Lombard.
- 5) The Commission is now a member of the National Association of Historic Preservation Commissions and the Illinois Association of Historic Preservation Commissions. Both of these organizations have workshops and meetings that are extremely helpful in our mission of Preservation. For this reason, I have been rethinking my

idea of renaming the Commission. Instead of the Lombard Preservation Commission, I think it would be appropriate to rename it The Lombard Historic Preservation

Commission. If you review one of the lists that I gave you on Feb 17th, you will see that nearly 90% of the Commissions named are Historic Preservation Commissions.

I hope this will explain my reasoning behind the renaming of the Commission and why the Society should remain the Society. If you have any questions or comments, please don't hesitate to call me. I would welcome any discussion about the Commission.

Rita M. Schneider