

Village of Lombard

*Village Hall
255 East Wilson Ave.
Lombard, IL 60148
villageoflombard.org*



Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, January 19, 2010

7:30 PM

Village Hall - NORTH LANDING

Lombard Historical Commission

*Rita Schneider, President
Tami Urish, Patricia Poskocil,
John Egan, Brigitte O'Brien
Lyn Myers, Eileen Mueller
Marcy Novak, Tom Fetters, Pravin Patel and Jack Jones
Corinne Flemm - Ex-Officio Member
Village Liaison - Jennifer Henaghan*

Call to Order and Roll Call of Members

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Vice President Tami Urish.

Present: Jack Jones, Patricia Poskocil, John Egan, Village Clerk Brigitte O'Brien, Tammy Urish, Tom Fethers, Corrine Flemm, Lyn Myers, Eileen Mueller and Pravin Patel

Absent: Rita Schneider and Marcy Novak

Also present: Jennifer Henaghan, Senior Planner.

Approval of Minutes

On a motion by Poskocil and seconded by Fethers the minutes of the October 20, 2009 meeting were approved as amended.

Public Participation

Tami Urish announced that public participation would be allowed throughout the meeting as various topics were introduced. There were no members of the public present.

Committee Reports

A. Finance - Pat Poskocil

The Finance Committee met with the Village to discuss reductions in the budget. The goal was to reduce the Historical Commission's budget by approximately one third. Similar reductions are being made to all Village budgets. Reduced or eliminated line items include: expenses for the Jingle Bell Jubilee, housekeeping services at both museums, and planned maintenance and repair projects for both museum sites. Tree trimming expenses planned for the Cemetery were also eliminated. Existing maintenance projects are to be completed as quickly as possible with expenses submitted to the Village. Finding suitable contractors for the specialized work at the museum sites can mean that amounts budgeted for work have not been spent. Mr. Hulseberg gave the committee very positive feedback on the accomplishments of both the Historical Commission and the Historical Society.

Mr. Mueller encouraged the Historical Commission and the Historical Society to continue increasing its responsibility for fund raising. To that end, the Historical Society Ways & Means Committee will be holding a meeting this Saturday Jan. 23 to brainstorm new fundraising plans. All members of the Society and the Commission are invited.

Pat thanked all the members of the Finance Committee who helped re-work the budget: Corrine Flemm, Dick Anstee, Tom Fethers, and Pravin Patel.

B. Local Landmarks - Jack Jones, Pat Poskocil

After speaking with Paul Friedrichs, Executive Director of the Lombard Park District, the Landmark Committee moved forward with discussions of Landmark status for Lilacia

Park. The Committee sent a letter to the Park District asking to attend a meeting to discuss the process. Rita Schneider received a letter from Park Board President Keith Giagnorio declining the request. The letter states that the Park Board is "unanimously against" any oversight that might be required if the site receives a historic designation.

A significant discussion was entertained by Commissioners that reviewed the historic plaque program in place through the Historical Society and the historic designation outlined in Village ordinances. The concept of a historic district was also included in the discussion. The current sentiment of property owners who have been approached by the Commission about historic designation from the Village has been wholly unfavorable. Feedback from property owners indicates that required oversight is a negative that outweighs the many advantages of Village recognition. The question is how to change that perception. The discussion focused on ways to involve the public in Lombard History with the goal of building a "preservation mindset."

A motion was made by Lyn Myers to: "Form a joint committee of the Lombard Historical Society and the Historical Commission to develop a plan that will focus on historical interpretation, primarily in the original areas of town, including Lilacia Park, that will engage the public, add to the aesthetic appeal of the area and promote historic appreciation of Lombard." The motion was seconded by Pat Poskocil. Other groups to involve in the process may be: the Park District, Lombard Town Centre and the Lombard Garden Club.

A starting point may be preparing interpretative material for Lilacia Park in time for The International Lilac Society's convention in 2011.

C. Personnel - Pat Poskocil

The Personnel Committee is responsible for reviewing the Museum Director and staff. The Director is reviewed on 4 main areas of performance: 1. Museum operations 2. Programs and collections 3. Community relations and 4. Staff and board relations. The Personnel Committee, comprised of both Historical Society and Historical Commission members, conducted the annual review for Museum Director Jeanne Schultz Angel. Her work continues to meet or exceed expectations. This year Jeanne has set a very ambitious goal of attracting 10,000 visitors to the Village's museums.

D. Ex-Officio - Corrine Flemm

Corrine distributed her report. Highlights include outstanding attendance at the Cemetery walk and Jinglebell Jubilee along with final installments of work on the new book "Lombard's Lilac Time."

Old Business

A. Lombard Cemetery

Tami distributed a copy of an October 23, 2009 letter from Village Manager Dave Hulseberg, clarifying the handling of funds for The Lombard Cemetery.

Tom Fetters also distributed a document titled "2009 Lombard Cemetery Improvements" that provides information about the work that was completed on the cemetery last year.

B. National Register Work for Sheldon Peck Homestead

The Illinois Historic Preservation Association review board has reversed their rejection of the application to secure National Registry recognition for the Sheldon Peck Homestead. The committee is now working on the National Registry application. The State recommended that a professional writer be hired as the application is over 50 pages long and requires very specific information. Interviews have begun. The process of completing the application may still take 5 to 6 months once a writer has been hired.

C. Downtown Landscape Enhancement Recommendations Report**090588****Downtown Landscape Enhancement Recommendations Report**

Review, discussion and adoption of the Downtown Landscape Enhancement Recommendations Report. (DISTRICTS #1 and #4)

Nothing to report.

New Business**A. Open Commission Positions**

Letters of appointment have been received for our newest Commissioner Pravin Patel and for reappointed Commissioners, Pat Poskocil, Lyn Myers, John Egan and Brigitte O'Brien.

B. Video Gaming

The Commission as a whole is opposed to allowing video gaming in Lombard.

C. Miscellaneous

Tami distributed a DRAFT copy of Rita's Annual report to the Village Board. Several suggestions were made and noted by Tami. Tami will forward those to Rita Schneider for the final report.

Adjournment

On a motion by Poskocil and seconded by Feters the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

The next meeting of the Commission is scheduled for Tuesday April 20 at 7:30pm in the Village Hall.