

Minutes
CITY OF RICHMOND, INDIANA
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
Monday, April 9, 2012
Philip W Smith House; 2039 East Main
5:00 P.M.

Attendance: President Michael Thuman ___x___, Don Nordstrom __X___,
David Inderstrod__X___, Lynn Johnstone __X___, Jill Nelson_X___,
Joe Schroeder __X___, John Oberle,_____, Scott Zimmerman, Staff__X___.

Guest: Scott Bartle, Frank Layne

Approve Minutes – March, 2012

David moved, Michael seconded to approve the minutes. Passed unanimously.

BUSINESS

Scott shared an email from John Oberle submitting his resignation due to time conflicts. David moved and Michael seconded to reluctantly accept John's resignation. It was noted how important his tenure as president was for the commission. The commission welcomed John's continued role on the Historic Richmond Today show. Sally Hutton will be notified of the need to appoint a replacement for John's term which expires 12/31/2013.

Regarding funding for Historic Richmond Today, Lynn received a call from Penn Ansorg of Preserve Richmond indicating willingness to donate \$100. Scott and Michael will ask SPUR for the same amount.

We discussed the need to fund the preservation of at-risk buildings but there is no ONE individual with the time or skills to coordinate the necessary efforts. Our good intentions do not translate into available time or skills.

Lynn also explained that the city's Stellar Communities grant application would bring in approximately 10 million dollars for a variety of projects in the center of Richmond which would benefit historic buildings. Funds would be used for façade restoration on Main Street, upstairs housing development on Main, grants for property rehabilitation around 10th Street Park and on North 10th Street. We will not know if we're chosen until the end of May.

The discussion then focused on establishing any of Linden Hill Conservation District as a Local Historic District which would review many aspects of exterior remodeling such as roofing, windows, siding, etc. The general consensus was that property owners on the south side were more likely to be supportive so no properties to the north were really discussed. Although relatively few property owners on the south side are outright opposed to such review, the fact that it is not clear what will be reviewed and what will be permitted left many lots a question mark regarding their support.

We discussed that the commission is able to make design standards that may not meet federal or other preservation standards such as allowing slate and tile replacement, window replacement and even vinyl siding. Scott pointed out that although we have the flexibility to accept those standards, at some point we are no longer preserving the historic character of the buildings but are creating a Disneyland version of historic landmarks.....appropriate looking but no longer made of historic materials.