

CITY OF RICHMOND, INDIANA
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
Monday, July 8, 2013
Richmond Municipal Building
3rd Floor Council Chambers
5:30 P.M.

Attendance: Ron Hughes, __X__, David Inderstrod, President_X__, Lynn Johnstone __X__, Jill Nelson__, Don Nordstrom __X__, Joe Schroeder _x__, Michael Thuman _X__, Scott Zimmerman, Staff_____.

Guest: Sue Mathews from Richmond Unsafe Building Commission

Four members constitute a quorum and official action may be taken.

Michael called the meeting to order at 5:30

BUSINESS

Approve Minutes – June, 2013

Ron motioned, Don seconded to approve the June minutes as amended to show Lynn Johnstone present. Passed unanimously.

Since Scott will be out of town in July, a secretary is needed for that meeting. Michael agreed to take minutes in July.

Conservation District Tabled – Later previously emailed the proposed mothball (2 years no action) ordinance. We Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) and Unsafe Building Commission (UBC) must cooperatively get together and write this ordinance and present it to the city for adoption quickly as a result of our HPC and Sue's conversation. See next two topics.

Discussion of unsafe building commission - The following topics were discussed.

1. Why was Dave Burns/Environmental Growth Group (EGG) at the UBC meeting? Don asked if he was involved in the process of issuing tear down orders. The answer went from NO, to sort of, to Yes. Why is not a board member attending and influencing a UBC meeting which is closed to the public?

2. Tony Foster's list was viewed as a keep the HPC busy list. It had no demolition houses and was a list of any type of complaint. We need to identify the houses we need to save. This was a waste of our time but did show a disturbing trend. Once we have the list, put it in a public forum (Pal item) or other format as a matter of public record. We need to remove all politics from these two commissions. Anastasias worked on a property and cleaned it up the very next day. The UBC listed a demo notice for a house not on any UBC published list. The HPC was suspicious of this action. The HPC is to meet in an outside meeting to select houses. Then publish the list in a public forum.

3. If you look at the list Tony list by address and EGG's involvement is there and **agenda** by UBC to rebuild entire neighborhoods or streets. We see EGG's involvement as a direct conflict of interest in this regard.
4. After listening to Sue, it was not clear they have a defined black and white process to put buildings on the tear down list. We invite Tony Foster to our next meeting to discuss this. We need to work much more closely and proactively with UBC to help owners not get a tear down notification. The idea that they get no coaching and suddenly get a tear down notice is not professional and does not serve the city but actually costs the city thousands of dollars. Don has invited me to the next UBC meeting. We do need to be careful to have the UBC not viewed as a threat but a help to the community.

Activities of nonprofit group Anastasias – Tied closely into the UBC and HPC discussion above. We HPC and Anastasias must clearly define our boundaries and not, as the UBC appears to have, have a question of members with conflicts of interest. When Anastasias came to the S 13th Street house and fix up started, they received water and money and numerous visitors' thanks and then the next day a tear down notice. How do we involve the community more? Jill's work on the moth ball ordinance was HPC or Anastasias work? A work session between Anastasias, HPC and Preserve Richmond will be done in the next 2 weeks. Don will setup the meeting and invite all.

Update on RHS nomination – Scott submitted his second set of minor revisions to DHPA and have not heard anything back yet. No news is good news.

Update on Linden Hill conservation district - Tabled

New Business – The general and frustrated feeling of being “played” by the UBC must be resolved.

Joe motioned and Don seconded to adjourn at 6:45 p.m. Passed unanimously.