

VILLAGE OF GRAFTON

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

OCTOBER 15, 2015

The Historic Preservation Commission meeting was called to order by Chair David Liss at 5:15 p.m.

Commissioners present: Trustee David Liss, Sue Hass, Sheldon Sepstead, Trustee Thomas Krueger, Matt Zipter, and Trustee David Antoine

Commissioners absent: Ted Warwick

Staff/Officials present: Village Administrator Darrell Hofland, Director of Planning and Development Jessica Wolff and Administrative Secretary Deborah Brown

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Commissioner Hass, seconded by Trustee Antoine to approve the minutes of the March 19, 2015 Historic Preservation Commission with the following correction: page 2-Digitalization misspelled first paragraph.
Motion carried.

HEAR PERSONS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD

None

Update on the Paramount Blues Festival

Chair Liss shared that Walk of Fame inductee William "Will" Ezell was announced on Saturday, September 12, 2015 around 1:00 p.m. Chair Liss also noted that the crowd was much larger this year and seemed to give full attention to the announcement of the selected Inductee to the Walk of Fame. He stated the Paramount Blues Festival overall went very well.

UPDATE ON THE INTERVIEWING PROCESS BY COMMISSIONER TED WARWICK

Given Commissioner Ted Warwick absence, the Commission decided to hold off on this discussion. The Commission did discuss challenges associated with this project. Trustee Krueger will follow up with Commissioner Warwick and Jim Haebig with St. Joseph Parish on furthering interviewing efforts.

REVIEW AND CONSIDERATION ON DISBANDING THE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION AND CREATION OF A SECTION 501 (C) NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION EFFORTS

The Commission discussed the steps, advantages, and disadvantages of forming a separate nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization. Commissioner Hass was concerned how the Village would handle historic preservation tasks if the Historic Preservation Commission

would disband and form a non-profit Historical Society organization. Director Wolff noted that historic preservation responsibilities would be given to another standing body like the Plan Commission.

Trustee Krueger pointed out the surrounding communities have been successful in their efforts due to the fact they can raise funds for their goals and projects. Commissioner Sepstead identified that no funds are available in the Village's budget to continue to meet any of the goals and projects of this Commission. Commissioner Zipter expressed that he too thought that there is not enough interest in the community for the historical society or historic preservation goals.

Village Administrator Darrell Hofland suggested that Town of Grafton residents being invited to become involved with a new non-profit organization. That may bring in new enthusiastic members as well as contributors.

Director Wolff suggested that the Commission may want to hold a public interest event to gauge community interest. The Commission agreed that would be a good course to take before making any decisions on disbanding the current Commission. Trustees Krueger and Antoine will contact the news media to write an article with contact names and phones numbers of the Commissioners for people interested in the historic background of Grafton. The outcomes would be reported at the next meeting when the Commission will discuss the next steps.

Director Wolff offered to research the application process to become a 501(c)(3) organization. Some discussion took place on suggested sites for a historical museum, one them being the Timothy Wooden building.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

The Commission then reviewed the 2015 calendar to set up the next meeting for December 17, 2015 at 5:15 p.m.

ADJOURN

Motion by Commissioner Sepstead, seconded by Commissioner Zipter to adjourn at 6:00 p.m. Motion carried.