Minutes of Regular Meeting
Joliet Historic Preservation Commission

At the regular meeting of the Historic Preservation Commission of the City of Joliet, Illinois held on Wednesday, January 22, 2014, at the hour of 7:00 p.m. in the South Wing Conference Room of the Joliet Municipal Building, 150 West Jefferson Street, Joliet, Illinois,

The following members were present:  
Hal Carlson  Michael Grady  
Kevin Heinemann  John Hickman  
Martha Hohisel, Chairperson  Sharon Merwin  
JoAnn Potenziani

Members absent:  
Mike Daniels  
Gerri Eck  
Ray Skaggs

City Staff /Elected Officials present:  None  

Members of the Public:  None

1. DECLARATION OF QUORUM: Chairperson Martha Hohisel opened the meeting at 7:00pm with a quorum being declared. Ms. Hohisel noted that Gerri Eck has a work conflict and could not attend.

2. COMMENTS FROM PUBLIC and STAFF: None present.

3. PUBLIC HEARING: There was no Public Hearing.

4. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES: The minutes for the November 20, 2013 meeting were reviewed. (there was no meeting for December 2013.) JoAnn Potenziani moved and Michael Grady seconded to approve the minutes as presented. The motion passed with all in favor.

NEW BUSINESS  A. Election of Officers – Chairperson Hohisel requested that an item of New Business – Election of Officers, be moved up on the agenda.

Kevin Heinemann said he would serve a chairperson for the 2014 term, after serving as the Vice-Chairperson for the 2013 term. Sharon Merwin moved and John Hickman seconded his nomination. A role call vote was taken, with all in favor:

Hal Carlson – aye  Michael Grady – aye  John Hickman – aye  
Martha Hohisel – aye  Sharon Merwin – aye  JoAnn Potenziani - aye
(Mr. Heinemann refrained from voting.)

No nominations for Vice-Chairperson were taken. Chairperson Hohisel suggested that this could take place at the February meeting.

5. COMMITTEE AND STAFF REPORTS

A. **Public Awareness Committee:** Nothing to report at this time.

B. **Nomination Committee**

*Cronin School* – The Hal Carlson mentioned that he has contacted Amy Hathaway at the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency to inquire about National Register status for Cronin School, after staff at Joliet Junior College inquired about this. Because the school has been moved, there is some concern whether Cronin School would be considered for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, but Ms Hathaway at the IHPA suggested that a preliminary review could be pursued. It was noted that Joliet Junior College may be interested in moving the school again. Hal Carlson said he will continue to work on this project.

*Wallace House* – There was no further progress made with this nomination.

C. **District Committee**  Martha Hohisel gave a report on the fence situation at 704 Western Avenue, a property in the local historic district. At a recent court proceeding, the judge gave ideas to the concerned parties on how the fence situation may be resolved, and agreement is being reached on this issue.

6. NEW BUSINESS

A. **Election of Officers** – completed earlier in meeting

B. **Commissioner Hohisel Resignation** -- Martha Hohisel mentioned her resignation letter and her service on the Commission through March 2014. Commissioners expressed their thanks to her for the service she has given for over a decade to the Joliet Historic Preservation Commission.

C. **2014 Goals** -- Commissioners briefly discussed what goals for 2014 might be. It was agreed that Commissioners should put together and gather up ideas and bring them to the February 26 meeting, at which Kevin Heinemann will be serving as Chairperson.

Commissioners also discussed their concern about the role and activities of the Joliet Historic Preservation Commission going forward. Commissioners agreed that having a full board was an important issue. A primary concern was the lack of “presence” the Joliet HPC has seemed to experience recently at not being included with City and community projects in which an HPC would normally be involved. Commissioners were
encouraged to bring these concerns to the February meeting for a discussion and review the role of the HPC as noted in the ordinance. During the March meeting, the Commission would like to include various City Staff to discuss these issues.

D. **Reimbursement for Statewide Conference** – Martha Hohisel and Sharon Merwin discussed the reimbursement for the Statewide Preservation Conference and how some IHPA reimbursement monies were paid. Ms. Merwin mentioned that there appeared to be some confusion on the deadline for filing the reimbursement and whether Commissioners should file individually or as a group. It was noted that the Joliet HPC may need to be a bit more proactive in filing these reimbursement forms in light that there is not necessarily City Staff to process them. In addition, the reimbursement is paid to the CLG (City of Joliet), not to the individual Commissioner.

7. **OLD BUSINESS** Nothing to report at this time.

8. **COMMISSIONERS STATEMENTS / COMMENTS TO THE COMMISSION**

   Martha Hohisel encouraged Commissioners to submit their activities and other information for the Annual Report, which she will be working on.

9. **ADJOURNMENT**

   There being no further business, Martha Hohisel moved and John Hickman seconded to adjourn the meeting at about 8:15pm. The motion passed with all in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sharon Merwin
JHPC Commissioner