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, March 26, 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
Gerri Eck
Kevin Heinemann, Chairperson

Members absent:

John Chow
Michael Grady
Sharon Merwin

Members of the Public:

Mike Daniels
Ray Skaggs
JoAnn Potenziani
John Hickman

City Staff/Elected Officials present:

Kendall Jackson, Planning Director

1. DECLARATION OF QUORUM: Chairperson Kevin Heinemann opened the meeting at 7:07 pm with a quorum being declared.

Mr. Heinemann also introduced John Chow, who was just appointed by the Mayor as a new voting Commissioner. Mr. Chow briefly explained his background, mentioning that he holds an architecture degree and is employed by the Housing Authority of Joliet as the Chief Development and Operations Officer.

2. COMMENTS FROM PUBLIC and STAFF:

As there were members of the public and staff present at the meeting, the agenda was amended to accommodate them.

Mr. Michael Tannura, the owner of the 509 Plainfield landmark property, returned about the Certificate of Appropriateness. The Commissioners and Mr. Tannura discussed additional topics about the property as it related to the CofA. That included de-designating the property as a Joliet Local Landmark, pursuing a certificate of economic hardship, which would have to meet the requirements as stated in the Preservation ordinance, and seeking any possible funding for a painting project. Mr. Tannura had asked if any City funds were available, but Commissioners noted that the Paint Grant program had been discontinued a number of years ago, due to economic reasons. Before any action is taken, an opinion from the City’s Legal
staff would be necessary if de-designation or a certificate of economic hardship would be pursued. Ms. Merwin did note that the property was on US Route 30 / Lincoln Highway and would try to research if any resources could be available because of that. No formal action was taken on the property and discussion will continue with this property.

Kendall Jackson, Planning Director, was present at the meeting to discuss the Kreamy Delight ice cream store building on North Broadway. The building needs capital improvements and Mr. Jackson wanted to discuss the possibility of applying for any preservation grants, as the property is on Historic Route 66. To qualify for certain grants, the property would need to be listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Mr. Jackson and the Commissioners discussed the possibility of this listing, and the consensus was that the property had little architectural significance. Mr. Jackson noted that the property was built in 1965, originally as a mobile home sales office, before it became the ice cream shop. The 50 year period of significance would be reached in 2015. More information on the property would possibly bring to light the property’s historic aspects that could qualify it for National Register status. Ms. Merwin suggested that more research be done that might uncover information that would qualify the property based on cultural and historic reasons.

The meeting resumed to the normal order of the agenda.

3. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES: The minutes for the March 26, 2014 meeting were reviewed. Hal Carlson moved and Michael Grady seconded to approve the minutes as presented. The motion passed with all in favor.

4. COMMITTEE AND STAFF REPORTS

A. Public Awareness Committee: Every year in May for Historic Preservation month, the Joliet Historic Preservation Commission gives an award to a person or organization which has completed a project or activity that supports preservation. Commissioners were reminded about the award and to bring any ideas to the April meeting.

B. Nomination Committee

Cronin School – Mr. Carlson reported that there have been no new developments on placing Cronin School on the National Register of Historic Places.

Wallace House – Mr. Carlson reported that there has been no further progress made with this nomination.

C. District Committee Nothing to report at this time.

5. OLD BUSINESS There were no agenda items, and nothing to review at this time.
6. NEW BUSINESS

A. Planning Session for March JHPC Meeting with City Staff -- The Commissioners have been discussing meeting with key City staff and leaders about the role of the Historic Preservation Commission. Mr. Jackson was present to participate in this discussion.

Sharon Merwin and Hal Carlson presented their ideas of what could be discussed at this meeting. Mr. Jackson and the Commissioners indentified topics to pursue that would result in a productive meeting. These include:

- Review of the Historic Preservation Ordinance, which delineates the role of the Commission and its responsibilities
- Development of a Strategic Plan and a Five-Year plan, including a focus on the Joliet City Center
- Support and resources that are available from the City to the Preservation Commission
- Discussions of the commitment for both the JHPC and the City in carrying forth the strategic plan and goals

These topics will be further refined in a meeting between Mr. Jackson and Commission representatives. The Commission expressed its thanks to Mr. Jackson for his participation in the meeting.

B. Goals and Establishment of a Five-Year Plan -- Due to time restraints, this item was not discussed. It will be placed on the April agenda.

7. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

It was noted that recently-appointed Commissioners were in need of the JHPC Resource books. Ms. Merwin will look into getting copies of the books made.

8. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Hal Carlson moved and John Chow seconded to adjourn the meeting at about 8:55pm. The motion passed with all in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sharon Merwin
JHPC Commissioner