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, June 25, 2014, at the hour of 6:30 p.m. in the South Wing Conference Room of the Joliet Municipal Building, 150 West Jefferson Street, Joliet, Illinois, the following business was discussed:

1. CALL TO ORDER: Chairperson Kevin Heinemann opened the meeting at approximately 6:30 pm.

2. DECLARATION OF QUORUM: Chairperson Kevin Heinemann declared a quorum:

   The following members were present: Members
   John Chow Gerri Eck
   Michael Grady John Hickman
   Kevin Heinemann, Chairperson Sharon Merwin
   JoAnn Potenziani Ray Skaggs (arrived late)

   Members absent:
   Hal Carlson
   Mike Daniels

   City Staff / Elected Officials present:
   Kendall Jackson, Planning Director
   James Hock, City Manager (arrived at 7:00 pm)

   Members of the Public:
   Pam Owens, Executive Director, Joliet City Center Partnership
   Greg Peerbolte, Executive Director, Joliet Area Historical Museum

3. COMMENTS FROM PUBLIC and STAFF:

   Present was Pam Owens, Executive Director, Joliet City Center Partnership and Greg Peerbolte, Executive Director, Joliet Area Historical Museum. Each introduced themselves and gave some background information about their positions and agencies. Ms. Owens and Mr. Peerbolte were in attendance to learn more about the Joliet Historic Preservation Commission and explain and share information about their agencies.

4. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES The minutes for the May 28, 2014 meeting were reviewed. Gerri Eck moved and John Hickman seconded to approve the minutes as presented. The motion passed with all in favor.

5. NEW COMMISSIONER PRESENTATION

   Sharon Merwin gave a slideshow presentation of historic preservation and its presence and role in Joliet. This served as a training module for new Commissioners and an overview for Ms. Owens and Mr. Peerbolte.
6. STAFF / AGENCY MEETING (7:00pm start time)

This segment of the meeting began at 7:00pm, when City Manager James Hock, arrived. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the role of the Joliet Historic Preservation Commission. Due to the lack of time, no strategic plan or five-year plan was discussed.

Mr. Hock introduced himself and spoke briefly of his background and work in Joliet thus far.

JHPC Commissioners discussed their role and accomplishments up to the present. These include establishing local landmarks and local historic districts, sponsoring conferences and seminars, applying for CLG grants, working on the downtown building survey, and monitoring potential historic properties. The Commissioners uses the D’Arcy landmark at 5 South Center and the Porter home at 10 South Broadway as examples of historic properties that could benefit from preservation programs.

Commissioners also expressed their concerns about sections of the ordinance and lack of resources to work on projects.

Pam Owens discussed the City Plan for the Joliet City Center Partnership and Greg Peerbolte discussed programs at the museum, recent personnel changes and fund-raising initiatives.

All parties discussed avenues of community engagement for the Joliet HPC, such as

− Having a Joliet HPC Commissioner on the Design Review Committee
− Getting an intern to assist the Commission with its work. The intern could be from Joliet Junior College, University of St. Francis, or Lewis University.
− Seeking more assistance from or pursuing a strategic planning session with staff from the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency.

The Commissioners, Ms. Owens and Mr. Peerbolte were supportive of the City Center Partnership luncheon on Friday, June 27 at the Joliet Area Historic Museum. This meeting will feature speaker Bonnie MacDonald, the Executive Director of Landmarks Illinois.

7. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Joann Potenziani moved and Michael Grady seconded to adjourn the meeting at about 8:20 pm. The motion passed with all in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sharon Merwin
JHPC Commissioner