

NOVEMBER 9, 2011

**HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
City of Mishawaka, Indiana**

The Mishawaka Historic Preservation Commission meeting was held Tuesday, November 9, 2011 at 4:00 PM in Room 205, City Hall. Commission members attending: Dick Barnette, Mike Bultinck, Dave Eisen, Judy Gray, Tony Obringer, Dave Vollrath and Cliff Zenor. Absent: John Gleissner. Advisory Member Dr. William Gering was present. Staff attending: Peg Strantz, Associate Planner.

MINUTES:

The September 6, 2011 minutes were approved as circulated.

Cliff Zenor chaired the meeting in Mr. Gleissner's absence.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: None

OLD BUSINESS:

House Detectives Seminar

Cliff Zenor passed out a brief report on the House Detectives Seminar held Saturday, October 15th at the downtown Mishawaka library, sponsored by Indiana Landmarks, the South Bend and St. Joseph County Historic Preservation Commission and the Mishawaka Historic Preservation Commission. He said we had a very good turn out and he thanked Judy and Peg for the very nice treats. He said it was a good presentation by Todd Zeiger from Indiana Landmarks. He said the topic was well received and afterwards an evaluation was passed out and out of the 58 people who attended, 51 were returned. Out of the 58 people who attended, 24 were from South Bend, 22 from Mishawaka, and 12 from surrounding areas, including Bristol, New Carlisle, Bremen, Granger and Plymouth. The information that Todd gave was specific to our area and people were eager to find out how to get the history of their old homes. Judging by the questions afterwards people were very attentive and found it quite helpful. Then the additional bonus, since we were at the public library, Dave Eisen beefed up the staff at the Heritage Center and had about 15 people come up after the meeting to see what the Center had for resources and he thinks they were still there an hour after the seminar broke up.

Dave Eisen said he was there until 12:00, and there were still people there. He said people have returned for research since then.

Cliff Zenor noted that in the evaluation we asked some questions about peoples' perspectives on preservation in their communities. He said there are encouraging things that people have an interest in learning not only about their own home but also about the architectural history of their communities; they like to learn about improving their homes. He said it is a nice bit of data to have that we can use to decide if we want to do another seminar similar to this. Another wonderful thing, he said, was we had this partnership not just with Indiana Landmarks but also with the South Bend and St. Joseph County Historic Preservation Commission, and especially Elicia Feasel who pretty much runs the day to day in that office and she also manages the website, Restore Michiana, which has a really good data base.

As a follow, Mr. Zenor, said he would like permission from the Commission to write up thank you notes that then would be sent on behalf of our Commission. Commission agreed.

Dave Eisen said one of the things that he hadn't expected to happen to himself after the seminar, as he has been driving around and looking at houses and trying to remember which of the styles it was, but it also occurred to him that he's probably not the only one. He thought we could have a seminar where people could bring in pictures of their houses and Todd or someone could say what style.

Mike Bultinck suggested a seminar on various house styles or history of St. Joseph County.

Tony Obringer noted that when he was in Leadership, Pat McMahan did a history of South Bend/Mishawaka timeline and it was fascinating.

Dave Eisen commented that there are a lot of people like him who didn't see any style that their house fit into when Todd was flashing all those styles on the overhead; like a house identification road show. Or a "then and now" showing photographs of the way a site used to look and a current photograph of how it looks now.

Mike Bultinck suggested an outreach to students and possibly holding something at one of the high schools.

Dave Eisen said the difficult thing is finding the old photographs. He said there are a lot of pictures from the downtown area but not once you get outside the downtown.

Judy Gray said there might be some of the little neighborhoods such as the neighborhood where the mustard factory was and the house that was recently torn down.

Mike Bultinck commented we would almost have to ask the general public that we are looking for pictures of a certain area during a certain time periods.

Dave Eisen suggested starting with an old picture and see what is there now. He said the library has lots and lots of postcards.

Cliff Zenor said the downside for Landmarks was that there was not fee for the seminar, so the printing of all the various information came out of his budget. Generally, he said, \$3 to \$5 would offset some of those expenses. In opposition to that the policy of the library is free and open to the public, so if we did something with Landmarks again we may have to find a different venue where we could charge to cover the cost of printing.

Peg Strantz and Dave Eisen said that they could always print copies at Planning and the Library.

Dave Eisen suggested contacting Glory June Grieff, an independent historian in New Carlisle, who is very knowledgeable about the surviving WPA sites and may be willing to do a seminar.

Dick Barnette said he would like to learn the history of the Temple Theater that was located that was located at the northeast corner of Lincolnway and Main.

The Commission discussed more ideas for future seminars/ workshops.

ADJOURNMENT: 4:40 PM

Peg Strantz, Associate Planner

Cliff Zenor, Vice Chairman
Mishawaka Historic Preservation Commission