

CARMEL HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

CAUCUS ROOM, CARMEL CITY HALL

1 CIVIC SQUARE, CARMEL, IN

January 11, 2024 – 6:00 P.M.

Minutes

1. Call to Order

Fred Swift called the meeting to order at 6:06 P.M.

2. Roll Call

Commissioners Present: Bill Sanders, Fred Swift, Nick Kestner, Jess Lawhead, Emily Ehr Gott, + two vacancies

Commissioners Not Present:

Staff: Mark Dollase, Alex Brooks

Guests: Nick Davis, Rosemary Dunkle

3. Approval of Minutes (12/7/2023)

Nick K. motioned to approve the December minutes. Emily seconded. Motion approved 4-0.

4. Hearing of Visitors

None

5. Certificate of Appropriateness Review

None

6. Report on Staff Approvals

None

7. Financial Report

a. Budget update

Alex said the current budget is \$100,000 with a non-reverting fund of \$400,348.47.

8. Old Business

a. Caperton-Carter House designation

Mark said the designation was approved on December 18.

b. Wilkinson House update

Mark said Landmarks has a completed bid for doing the work on the House. He added that a few people have expressed interest, but no one has ultimately bought it. Nick K. asked what kind of work will be done on the home, which Mark said will be masonry, windows, and gutters. Fred recommended removing newer columns that he felt detracted from the home's historic character. Mark said the newer columns are themselves historic but should be of the same material as the original wood columns.

c. ArcGIS update

Alex and Mark said work is still being done on ArcGIS and its integration into the Carmel website. Mark said the continued improvement of the website will help the demolition delay process and answer any questions city officials might have with determining whether a property is on the historic survey.

9. New Business

a. Commissioner Appointments/Officer elections

Nick K. recommended postponing the election of a commission president until the final vacancy was filled. Bill motioned to postpone the election of officers until the February meeting, seconded by Emily. Motion passed 5-0. A commemorative plaque was given to Nick Davis for years of service.

b. National Register grant program

Mark presented an idea to encourage Carmel residents with historic homes to pursue National Register nominations. The idea involved a grant program where the Commission would fund outside consultants to aid National Register nominations. Emily asked what the cost of a consultant's fee would be, which Mark said varied depending on the property, neighborhood, or district, but often was around \$3,000 for an individual property. Nick D. asked Bill if most homes in Carmel were built in the 1970s-1980s. Bill said most construction west of Meridian St. began in the 1970s. Mark said he and Alex could create a structure for the program pending the Commission's approval of the concept. Nick K. said the percentage covered by the Commission could likely determine the number of interested parties. Rosemary said it was an interesting idea that she approved of. Fred recommended more focus on individual nominations, and not districts, noting an unpleasant experience in the past with Johnson Addition, but Mark noted that the instance with Johnson Addition involved local designation and not the National Register. Mark also mentioned the difference between National Register applicants coming to the Commission for recognition, as opposed to the opposite. Nick D. suggested the Commission buy a plot of land in Carmel for historic homes to be moved to.

10. Other Business

Alex presented the designation document for Ro Pettiner at 14420 Cherry Tree Rd, but it was decided that a formal vote on it would wait until February.

Alex mentioned calls he had received about the home at 11199 Westfield Blvd and its potential demolition, but Mark said demolition delay requests do not need to be voted on by the Commission if homes are on the newer historic home survey, which has yet to be voted on by the City Council.

Mark mentioned that he and Alex visited the home of Cathy Arnold at the Equestrian Center, and that one of the barns suffered hail damage and needs repairs, and that they will find contractors for the work.

11. Announcements

12. Adjournment

Bill moved to adjourn the meeting. Emily seconded. Motion passed 5-0. Meeting adjourned at 7:09 P.M.



Fred Swift, Vice Chairperson,
Carmel Historic Preservation
Commission



Alex Brooks, Recording Secretary