

MEETING MINUTES
CITY OF HIGHLAND HISTORICAL COMMISSION
LOUIS LATZER MEMORIAL LIBRARY, 1001 9TH STREET, HIGHLAND, IL
MONDAY, AUGUST 22, 2023
6:30PM

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL:

Officers:	Present	Absent
Jacob W. Rose – Chairperson	X	
Jeff Menz – Secretary	X	
Sara Knobloch	X	
Joe Garson	X	
Sarah Finley		X

MINUTES:

Motion – Approve Minutes of the May 24, 2023 Historical Commission Meeting
Motion passed by roll call voice vote.

PUBLIC FORUM:

Anyone with anything to address the Historical Commission may do so at this time.

- Three guests in attendance: Fred Groves, Karen Mason, Mayor of City of Highland Kevin Hemann.

High points of the discussion between Mayor Hemann and the attendees: Mayor Hemann said we the Historic Commission is in an advisory capacity to the city. We can be the ears in the community and provide info to the city regarding historic buildings, etc. The COVID rules for audio recording of meetings are no longer in effect and we no longer have to do so. Hemann will encourage council members to attend our meetings so they can see and hear about what the commission is about. Hemann is the new chair of the Highland Community Foundation. Regarding the demolition of the Eagle Inn building, Hemann was asked if there are any proactive steps the City can take to encourage upkeep of buildings in town. He said it could take years to go through legal avenues. Are grants available for private citizens who own historic properties to make improvements? Not sure, this will be looked into. There may be tax freezes or historic tax credits available for properties on the National Register. Highland has a celebration fund that they use to fund city celebrations like the Sesquicentennial celebration. Special project funds are available through the Highland Community Foundation.

Fred Groves is looking for old trim pieces for the bell tower.

REPORTS:

1) Historic Properties Reports

- Latzer Homestead –
 - Roof replacement – Review for architectural integrity scheduled August 23. The original copper roof will be replaced with a green aluminum roof with an extra layer of plywood underneath. Contractor is Solution Roofing LLC out of Edwardsville and scheduled to be completed by Homestead Days in September.
- Kaeser Park –

- This is the next location scheduled for application for National Registry. The old creek bridge is scheduled for removal this summer. Fred Groves is coordinating with contractors to trim trees that overhang buildings on site.
 - City Hall Bell Tower-
 - The old bell tower has been moved to its final location across the street from City Hall. The city will bid and install historic marker for the tower. Jacob Rose will put together the print for the plaque and send to Kevin Hemann.
 - Suppiger House sidewalk-
 - The new owner of the home is interested in having a retaining border installed along the front sidewalk in order to prevent future covering of the sidewalk with dirt. The resetting of the bricks is $\frac{3}{4}$ completed at this time.
 - During discussion, a concern was made about the drainage off the new parking lot across Walnut Street from the post office. Hemann will have the city street crews check it out.
 - 1000 Laurel Street (the old Marx Brothers building).
 - No discussion.
 - 1014 Laurel Street (old Journal Printing / Appel building).
 - No discussion.
- 2) Highland Historic Commission Guidelines Manual and Preservation Plan
- Currently on hold.
- 3) Landmarks Committee (A Highland Historical Society Committee) (Commission Auxiliary)
- Digital Archive Website
 - No new discussion.
 - SIUE Successful Collaborative Program
 - This is running long and an extension is granted.
 - No changes since last meeting.
 - Mexican-American War cannon.
 - Hiring conservator to move cannonballs to cannon.
 - Reach out to the Sharpshooters regarding historic material on the cannon.
 - Workers' Progress Mural.
 - The mural has been transferred to Tina Cist, art conservationist in St, Louis.
 - Look for a source of money for mural restoration, in the neighborhood of \$50,000. Stabilization of the mural could cost \$5,000.
 - Mural once restored will be installed inside the library's front entrance of the Louis Latzer Memorial Library.
- 4) Historic Building Inventory.
- Photo project of historic buildings was completed Saturday, May 6. No issues reported.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Is an ordinance amendment necessary for this commission to meet more frequently than originally chartered? This commission is required to meet at least 4 times a year and may meet more frequently if we choose to.
- Connect with Highland City council members.

NEW BUSINESS:

- None.

Motion to adjourn:

Motion carried by roll call voice vote.

Adjournment made at 7:42pm.

ADJOURNMENT

NEXT MEETING DATE – Tuesday, October 24, 2023 at 6:30pm at Louis Latzer Public Library, location TBD. Anyone requiring accommodations, provided for in the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), to attend this public meeting, please contact Dylan Stock, ADA Coordinator (618-654-7115).