

## DIXON HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

CITY HALL  
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Minutes of the Commission meeting of July 20, 2015

**1. Call to order.** In the absence of Chairperson John McLane, who was unable to attend due to prior commitments, the meeting was called to order by Vice-Chairperson Duane Paulsen in Council Chambers at 132p.

**2. Roll call.** Commissioners present were Linda Brantley, James Higby, Greg Langan, and Duane Paulsen. Also in attendance were Tom Houck of Willett, Hofmann & Associates, John Morley III of Morley Sign Co., and Dr. John Monkman, friend and house guest of Commissioner Langan.

**3. Approval of minutes.** Minutes of the meeting of March 17, 2015 have been distributed electronically, and printed copies have been distributed to all persons present at today's meeting. **Linda Brantley moved, and Greg Langan seconded, that the minutes be approved as printed and read. Voting Aye: Brantley, Higby, Langan, and Paulsen. Voting Nay: None. Motion carried.**

#### **4. Notices and communications.**

a. Included in the meeting agenda packet were several documents:

- i. a handwritten memo dated 7/1/2015 from Greg Langan to David Nord and James Higby summarizing the history of the Reagan Peace Park historical signage project, including sketches of ways that the plaques might be mounted and displayed;
- ii. a printout of a photograph of one of the three Reagan Peace Park plaques that the City has on hand;
- iii. a list of one dozen building addresses recommended by Commissioners Langan and Higby as sites to receive the first round of plaques; this list additionally includes the three plaques intended for Reagan Peace Park;
- iv. a printout of a photograph of the plaque intended for installation at 202 West First Street;
- v. a printout of the historical signage panel proposed for erection on the First Street side of Town Square Block;
- vi. printouts of three Dorochoff panels corresponding to inquiries received by Commission Secretary Higby regarding properties at 86 Monroe Avenue, 214 West First Street, and 220 West First Street; it should be noted that none of those inquiries was accompanied by an application for façade modification;
- vii. a copy of a letter dated October 21, 2013 to Mayor Burke from Chris Sinclair of Northbrook Power Management, LLC, which owns the power plant at the foot of Ottawa Avenue in Dixon; Mr. Sinclair therein indicated the company's pleasure "to accept the proposal by the City of Dixon and its Tourism Commission [sic] to install a bronze plaque giving a brief history of the power plant and the dam"; along with this was a document titled "Proposed Rough Draft for the Dixon Hydroelectric Plant";
- viii. two printouts, one in portrait and the other in landscape orientation, of Mr. Sinclair's text as edited by Commissioner Higby to spell out horsepower, revolutions per minute, and kilowatt-hours, abbreviations for which the general public may not know the full text.

- b. Commissioner Langan gave a brief review of his letter of 7/1/2015 regarding Reagan Peace Park.
- c. Commissioner Higby gave a brief review of what has been accomplished to date in the Historic District signage program; the actual bronze plaque for 124 East First Street was on display.
- d. Commissioner Higby gave a brief review of the progress that has been made toward a historic panel to illustrate the history of the Town Square Block; Engineer Tom Houck and his assistant, Alan Hulstedt, have converted the sketch into digital form which can easily be modified; Houck and Hulstedt had presented Langan and Higby with four options, one of which was selected as the most desirable on May 5, 2015. This design was submitted to Morley Sign Co. for analysis and an estimate for a "turnkey" production and installation. It should be noted that the chosen design can still be modified.

**5. Public comment.** There were no comments by the public.

**6. Old business.** The floor was turned over to John Morley III, who reviewed his interpretation of the historic signage for the Town Square Block, along with his proposal and estimate for its realization. The Secretary had received two documents from him via email earlier in the day, too late for inclusion in the agenda packet: a suggested font change and an installation schematic. Thus were copies of these distributed to all present by the Secretary. The Commissioners unanimously supported the font change. However, when discussion ensued relative to the placement of said sign, it became obvious that there were some minor details that should be worked out before the Commission makes a recommendation to City Council.

All in all, the Commissioners were quite impressed at the breadth and depth of Mr. Morley's knowledge of his craft, as well as his business acumen.

**7. New business.** After brief discussion among the Commissioners, **James Higby moved, and Linda Brantley seconded, that the Commission urge City Manager Nord and the City Council to expedite the installation of the 27 bronze historical plaques that we have on hand.** There was no additional discussion. **Voting Aye: Langan, Paulsen, Brantley, and Higby. Voting Nay: None. Motion carried.**

**Then James Higby moved, and Linda Brantley seconded, that the Commission request of City Manager Nord that he seek a bid for a bronze plaque to be installed upon or near the former Illinois Northern Utilities power plant on River Street, the plaque to feature text as presented to the Commission by James Higby at its July 20, 2015 meeting.** No further discussion occurred,. **Voting Aye: Paulsen, Brantley, Higby, and Langan. Voting Nay: None. Motion carried.**

[Note: The Secretary has composed and sent a letter to City Manager Nord advising him of these actions, with Mayor Li Arellano copied in.]

The next meeting of the Commission will be held in Council Chambers on Monday, August 3, 2015 at 130p.

**8. Adjournment.** **James Higby moved, and Duane Paulsen seconded, that the meeting be adjourned. Voting Aye: Brantley, Higby, Langan, and Paulsen. Voting Nay: None. Motion carried, and the meeting was adjourned at 249p.**

Respectfully submitted by James Higby, Secretary  
Dixon Historic Preservation Commission