

DIXON HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

CITY HALL
P. O. BOX 318
DIXON IL 61021
dhpc@discoverdixon.org

Minutes of the Commission meeting of May 5, 2014

1. Call to order. The meeting was called to order by John McLane in Council Chambers at City Hall at 131p.

2. Roll call. Commissioners present were James Higby, Greg Langan, John McLane, and Duane Paulsen, to be joined within a very short time by Linda Brantley. Also in attendance were David Nord, Dixon City Administrator; Scott Brown, Project Manager at Wendler Engineering Services; Linda Knoll, applicant for façade modification at 319 West First Street; and Pat Gorman, President of Lee County Historical Society.

3. Approval of minutes. Minutes of the meeting of April 28, 2014 have been distributed electronically, and printed copies have been distributed to all persons present at today's meeting. **Greg Langan moved, and Duane Paulsen seconded, that the minutes be approved as printed and read. Voting Aye: Paulsen, McLane, Langan, and Higby. Voting Nay: None. Motion carried.**

4. Notices and communications.

Several items were included in the Commissioners' meeting agenda packet:

- a. an excerpt from the minutes of the Commission's December 4, 2012 meeting, wherein were summarized the Commission's adopted procedures for handling and acting on applications for façade modifications
- b. a memo to the Commission from Linda Knoll [undated] outlining her plans for renovation of property at 319 West First Street
- c. two concept photos of the proposed façade modification at 319 West First Street
- d. a letter to the Commission from Mayor Burke, dated November 21, 2013, in which he suggested three historic sites worthy of historic markers and narratives for them
- e. a memo to Mayor Burke from James Higby, dated January 30, 2014, in which he had identified ten historic sites worthy of historical markers
- f. a memo to the Commission from Greg Langan, dated April 28, 2014, in which he had identified twenty-six historic sites potentially worthy of historic plaques

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

6. Old business.

- a. John McLane reported that he had met with Vicki Turner, who thought that the idea of a brochure of historic homes and buildings, similar to the one John had brought from Princeton IL, was a good one. She expressed the view that the Lincoln in Dixon brochure should remain as a stand-alone, but that an updated Historic Walking Tour of Dixon brochure might replace two or more others. Greg Langan suggested that, since Tourism has a budget, that agency might be able to fund at least part of brochure production. Duane Paulsen observed that the larger cost would be of a start-up nature, and afterward the costs would be for reprinting alone. Linda Brantley wondered if a committee from Lee County Historical Society and/or Lee County Genealogical Society might handle the research. Greg Langan pointed out the urgency of addressing the needs of the downtown Streetscaping Project first

and as soon as possible. **The City Map for Self-Guided Tour of Dixon Historic Buildings proposal will remain indefinitely on the agenda under Old Business.**

7. New business.

- a. Linda Knoll once again addressed the Commission and outlined her proposed façade modification at 319 West First Street. She has in mind to re-paint the entire façade of the building a cream color and add an awning and sign which advertise the business. John McLane distributed a sketch of what he considers a "typical French bistro," based on his recent travels in France. Linda plans to add two lanterns to illuminate the exterior at night and some small bistro tables on the sidewalk. She hopes to open for business with a limited menu sometime before the start of the 2014 Petunia Festival and a complete menu soon thereafter. **Greg Langan moved, and Linda Brantley seconded, that the Commission allow Linda Knoll to move ahead with the general plan of her project. Voting Aye: McLane, Langan, Higby, Brantley, and Paulsen. Voting Nay: None. Motion carried.**
- b. The Commission discussed the selection of historic sites worthy of commemoration via signage. James Higby suggested that Lee County Historical Society might be the arbiter or clearinghouse in the creation of a list of such sites. He asked LCHS President Pat Gorman if the Society's Research and Projects Committee could be charged with the creation of such a list. The response was affirmative. He then asked Engineer Scott Brown if he would be willing to meet with the LCHS committee, once they had met, discussed, and produced a tentative list of sites to mark. Again, the response was affirmative. **James Higby moved, and Linda Brantley seconded, that the Commission empower Lee County Historical Society's Research and Projects Committee to a) create a list of sites which best illustrate the history of downtown Dixon; b) provide a justification for each selected site; and c) suggest wording to include on the historical markers.**

Additional discussion ensued.

Greg Langan opined that brief wording is not enough to tell many of the stories. James Higby observed that the initial exposure of a site's history must be necessarily concise, both because of space constraints and attention spans. Pat Gorman proposed the use of electronic devices to propagate the information we wish the public to know. Linda Brantley indicated that this had been discussed at some point. She also stated that plaques mounted on walls are easier to read than those mounted at ground level. Pat Gorman added that ground-mounted plaques tend to accumulate dirt, debris, and snow and ice. David Nord told of how a low-power, 530 kHz radio signal, advertising the Reagan Boyhood Home, the Northwest Territory History Museum, and Dixon Tourism, can be received from I-88 near the Dixon interchange. **He will look into adding the Loveland Museum, Lee County Historical Society, and Lee County Genealogical Society to the list of attractions mentioned in the broadcasts.** Linda Brantley asked about a deadline for the LCHS Committee to complete its work. Scott Brown indicated that, with construction scheduled to begin by the end of May in some areas, the proposed signage for at least those initial areas be completed as soon as possible. The question was called. **Voting Aye: Langan, Higby, Brantley, Paulsen, and McLane. Voting Nay: None. Motion carried.**

8. Adjournment. Greg Langan moved, and John McLane seconded, that the meeting be adjourned. Voting Aye: Higby, Brantley, Paulsen, McLane, and Langan. Voting Nay: None. Motion carried, and the meeting was adjourned at 237p [the Secretary regrets his error of stating aloud the time of adjournment as 247p].

Respectfully submitted by James Higby, Secretary
Dixon Historic Preservation Commission