

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
ST. ALBANS CITY HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
6:00 PM TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2022
ST. ALBANS CITY HALL, 100 NORTH MAIN STREET

Approved October 18, 2022

Commission Members Present: Laz Scangas, Chair; Richard Stahl; Barbara Weinstein; Joe Luneau; Lisa Evans (via Zoom).

Commission Members Absent: LisaMarie Charlesworth; KarenMarie Peltier.

City Staff Present: Chip Sawyer, Director of Planning & Development; Angela Bernard, Minute Taker.

1. Begin Recording and Open Meeting. **L. Scangas called the meeting to order at 6:01 PM**

- a. Introduction of attendees – none needed
- b. Public Comment on issues not on agenda - none
- c. Discuss additions or deletions to agenda - none

2. Discuss Historic District nomination, review sheet and next steps.

C. Sawyer told the Commission that the Historic District application has been submitted and will be considered by the state board on October 20, 2022 in Montpelier and online. There was some discussion on whether or not any Commission members should show up in person and be present for the meeting. J. Luneau said he will be there in his capacity with the state historic board, but that he will abstain for voting on this subject. He said it is unusual for local Commission members to go to the meeting, but it could be interesting if anyone does want to go. After it passes in Montpelier, it goes for national review and approval.

3. Discuss ideas for next CLG grant application round.

C. Sawyer said the grants are announced in October, with applications due in December. He said he anticipates it will be similar to previous applications in terms of requirements and matching funds. He said if anyone has an idea for a CLG grant, the city has a couple of months to complete the application. J. Luneau said he thinks the requirements for matching funds might be flexible.

B. Weinstein asked if the Commission agrees that an Old Home Award would qualify for the CLG grant. C. Sawyer said it could fall under an information and education project designation. B. Weinstein explained that it would be an easy award to create and that there is a lot of interest in the community lately for restoring old, historic homes in the city.

C. Sawyer suggested there could also be a possibility of creating a new historic district, such as a French-Canadian neighborhood down on Lake Street.

B. Weinstein asked if it's possible to complete two grant applications. J. Luneau said yes. C. Sawyer said it would just require someone administering it and completing the project. B. Weinstein said both projects sound good.

L. Scangas said one thing that's appealing about creating a new district in the Lake Street area is that this neighborhood doesn't get a lot of attention. C. Sawyer said the only hitch is paying for a survey to create a new district. L. Scangas asked if it's possible to do some of the initial legwork voluntarily, cutting into the cost of doing the full survey. L. Scangas said that could be the first step of the application process.

L. Scangas suggested completing two applications, one for the new French-Canadian District and one for an Old Home Award program.

L. Scangas suggested the Commission do some homework for the applications and hold a special meeting before the regularly scheduled meeting in December to prepare for the application deadline.

C. Sawyer asked what the budget would look like for both projects and what would cost money. There was some discussion regarding getting a plaque to present winners of the Old Home Award program. B. Weinstein said she was thinking about presenting it to homeowners who fixed up a home in a historically accurate way. L. Scangas said the program, its criteria, and application process would have to be fleshed out in depth at future meetings.

There was some discussion regarding other areas in the city that could become designated districts as well, such as the northern section of Main Street. B. Weinstein suggested considering which buildings are "contributing" or "not contributing" when creating the new districts.

C. Sawyer asked if a special meeting should be scheduled in order to go over these applications. L. Scangas suggested October 18, 2022 at 6:00 PM for a special CLG grant application meeting. L. Scangas requested B. Weinstein collect information on the Old Home Award program suggestion and bring it to the special meeting.

4. Approval of Minutes.

J. Luneau made a motion to approve minutes for two meetings – June and July, 2022. Second by B. Weinstein. Minutes approved at 6:29 PM.

5. Other business - none

6. Review next meeting date/time – Special meeting on October 18, 2022, at 6:00 PM.

7. Adjourn

L. Scangas adjourned the meeting at 6:29 PM.