Historic Preservation Commission
Minutes
April 28, 2010

MEMBERS PRESENT: Sue Dyke, Diane Giles, Don Jensen, Merike Phillips, and Judy Rossow

EXCUSED: Tom Schleif

STAFF PRESENT: Mike Maki

The meeting was called to order by Don Jensen, Chairperson, at 5:05 pm and roll call was taken.

Approval of Minutes of September 29, 2009

Diane Giles arrived.

Ms. Phillips said in the discussion on the Amendment to Porch Certificate of Appropriateness on page 2, sentence #8 "Ms. Phillips said the trellis is nice." should be removed.

A motion was made by Ms. Phillips and seconded by Ms. Dyke to approve the September 29, 2009 minutes as amended. The motion passed unanimously (5 ayes; 0 noes).

1. Election of Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson

The meeting was turned over to Ms. Phillips. Nominations for Chairperson were opened.

A motion was made by Ms. Phillips to nominate Don Jensen for Chairperson. Ms. Dyke seconded the motion. There were no additional nominations. Nominations were closed. The motion to elect Mr. Jensen as Chairperson passed unanimously (5 ayes; 0 noes).

The meeting was turned back over to Mr. Jensen. Nominations were opened for Vice-Chairperson.

A motion was made by Ms. Dyke to nominate Tom Schleif for Vice-Chairperson. Ms. Giles seconded the motion. There were no additional nominations. The motion to elect Mr. Schleif as Vice-Chairperson passed unanimously (5 ayes; 0 noes).

2. Certificate of Appropriateness for Kenosha High School (Reuther High School), 913 57th Street, Civic Center Historic District. PUBLIC HEARING

Public hearing opened.

John Setter, Kenosha Unified School District, 3600 52nd Street, Kenosha, WI said they are here this evening to discuss the design of the hand railings for the high school. Steve Mar-Pohl, In-Site Consulting, Inc., 542 W. Washington Avenue, Madison, WI, said they are asking the Commission to consider a change in the appearance of the post. The rail remains the same. The post they are proposing has additional ornamentation. Unfortunately, they do not have any original drawings to reference, but they have used the original metal work as a guide.

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Mr. Setter said the handrails that were removed were stainless steel. The replacement handrails would also be stainless steel. The posts will be painted a dark green to match the lampposts that will be refurbished so they will all match. The rod between the post and the handrail will also be painted dark green.

Public hearing closed.

Mike Maki, Planner, said this Kenosha (Reuther) High School has been before the Commission a number of times. Some of the stairways have been reinstalled. Mr. Mar-Pohl said the stairs and temporary handrails to the auditorium were installed. There is an issue with the contractor meeting the tolerances required for the stairs, so the stairs will have to be torn out and replaced once school is dismissed for the summer. The stairs are 8 times out of tolerance or about an inch.

Mr. Maki said they have negotiated the location of the handrails and they will be put where the prior handrails were located.

Ms. Phillips said she went by the school today, and the renovation is a huge undertaking. Ms. Phillips asked if the railings that are currently in place are the original handrails. Mr. Setter said the original building did not have handrails. Ms. Phillips said the ornamentation of the posts looks nice.

A motion was made by Ms. Phillips and seconded by Ms. Rossow to approve the Certificate of Appropriateness for the handrails at Kenosha (Reuther) High School as submitted. The motion passed unanimously (5 ayes; 0 noes).

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3. Public Comments

Public comments opened.

Mr. Setter said anytime anyone from the Commission wishes to have a tour of Reuther High School let him know, and he will set it up.

Public comments closed.

4. Commissioner Comments

Ms. Phillips said she is still a member of the Kemper Center Building and Grounds Committee and Kenosha County wants to raze the house on the corner. Do they know they have to come before this Commission before they take any action? They failed to heat the building over the winter. As a historic property, they cannot demolish a property due to neglect. Kemper Center wants to keep the house. Ms. Phillips said she hopes the City of Kenosha and Kenosha County can work together on this. Mr. Maki said he will check into this again. The Historic Preservation Commission sent them a letter a couple of years ago on this property. Ms. Phillips said the building is a contributing building in the Third Avenue Historic District. Mr. Maki said he would relay this information to Kenosha County.

Ms. Dyke said she would not be able to attend the May or June meetings.

5. Staff Comments

No staff comments.

A motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Giles and seconded by Ms. Rossow. The motion passed unanimously (5 ayes; 0 noes). The meeting adjourned at 5:18 p.m.

Certification that the minutes have been approved by the Historic Preservation Commission.

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Jeffrey B. Labahn, Secretary

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