

Village of Oswego
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, September 28, 2022

Village Hall – Community Room
100 Parkers Mill, Oswego, Illinois 60543

1. CALL TO ORDER

A meeting of the Oswego Historic Preservation Commission was called to order at 7:01 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Chairperson George, Commissioners Zentner and Natonek
Members Absent: Commissioner Terrazas
Others Present: Valeria Tarka, Anne Jordan

3. MINUTES – Approval Of Minutes

A motion was made by Commissioner Zentner and seconded by Commissioner Natonek to approve the minutes from the July 27, 2022 meeting.

Aye: Chairperson George, Commissioners Zentner and Natonek
Nay: None
Absent: Commissioners Terrazas

The motion carried (approved 3-0).

4. PUBLIC FORUM

Allen Hergenbahn made a presentation to the group on the one room schoolhouse that was previously located on the corner of Wolf and Harvey. The school was built in 1854 and was open until 1948. Mr. Hergenbahn stated his desire for the Village to put up a sign commemorating the history and importance of the one room schoolhouse. Mr. Hergenbahn stated that he is willing to provide some funding for the signage. Ms. Tarka stated the Village is aware of Mr. Hergenbahn's request and that the work on Wolf Road up to Harvey is a part of the Phase 1 Wolf Road improvements; Phase 1 is not expected to be completed until the end of next year. Ms. Tarka continued that the HPC can advocate the importance of adding signage to the streetscaping/sidewalk area along the intersection of Wolf and Harvey when it comes time to finalize the streetscaping improvements/landscaping at the intersection. The Commission thanked Mr. Hergenbahn for his presentation.

5. OLD BUSINESS

a. CLG Grant for National Register

Ms. Tarka provided the group with a brief overview of the DOHD grant and nomination. Ms. Tarka informed the group that the DOHD was placed on the National Register of Historic Places by the National Park Service on August 15th. She informed the group that Village Staff had sent letters to property owners in the DOHD explaining the designation and a Press Release was also shared with the community. Ms. Tarka informed the group that she did an interview regarding the DOHD with a local news station. Chairperson George asked if Ms. Tarka could share the link to the interview. Ms. Tarka stated she would share the link.

Ms. Tarka stated that the National Park Service does not provide signage or funds for properties on the National Register of Historic Places. She informed the group that she contacted a sign company for estimates and renderings of signage for the DOHD. She asked the group what type of signage they would like for the DOHD. Chairperson George stated that signage in the right-of-way on either end of the district makes sense. Ms. Tarka stated that she will share the renderings and estimates of

the signage with the HPC. Ms. Tarka reminded the group that the HPC's total budget for the fiscal year is \$1,000 and that the DOHD signage will most likely come out of the HPC's budget.

b. Honorary Street Names

- i. *Presentation.* Ms. Jordan provided the group with a presentation on historic Oswego figures and gave her recommendations of people of interest. Ms. Jordan highlighted the following individuals: Levi F. Arnold, Mary Cutter Bickford, Henry Cutter, Nathan Hughes, Robinson B. Murphy, James F. Phillips, Valerie Tate, Emily Murdock VanDeventer, Dick Young, and Dwight Young. Ms. Jordan stated that the HPC should consider locations for the honorary street names.
- ii. *Discussion.* Chairperson George stated that the Oswego Drag Strip could be a good location for honorary street names along with the owners Dan and Wally Smith for the name. Ms. Jordan agreed that the Drag Strip has rich history in the community, but at the time the property operated as a drag strip, it was not within Village limits. Ms. Tarka stated that the Drag Strip property has subsequently been annexed into the Village.

Commissioner Zentner stated that the HPC should also consider giving honorary street names to living people so the people can receive the honor. Commissioner Zentner stated that the Commission should consider Rita Garman, former Illinois Supreme Court Justice who graduated from Oswego High School. Commission George stated that if the HPC gives an honorary street name to individuals who are living, the HPC and Village could participate in unveiling event. The event could increase interest in the work of the HPC. Commissioner Natonek and Zentner agreed with the idea of having an event for the unveiling of the honorary street names.

Chairperson George stated that Adams Street, near the Oswego Winery could be an appropriate location for honorary street names. He suggested the HPC should do a site visit downtown for possible locations of honorary streets. Ms. Tarka stated that the Commission should review the names provided by Ms. Jordan, do further research on living Oswego figures, and investigate locations for the honorary streets.

6. NEW BUSINESS

a. Updates to HPC Roster

- i. *Welcome to Stan Natonek.* Chairperson George welcomed Commissioner Natonek to the HPC. The Commissioners and Staff went around and gave a brief introduction. themselves.
- ii. *Congrats to Subash George.* Chairperson George explained to the group that he is now the Chairperson of the HPC and is excited for the new role.

b. Historic Preservation Month Activities

Ms. Tarka provided the Commissioners with a list of previous historic preservation month activities. Past activities included: a stone house walking tour, presentation in front of Village Board, attending a presentation on the Sears Catalog Home at the Little White School Museum, providing historic buildings with a "This Place Matters Sign", and a tour of historic buildings. Commissioner Zentner stated that there are multiple stone houses in the Village and could be a good idea to highlight their history. Commissioner Natonek stated that the Sears Catalog Home is an interesting site.

Chairperson George asked when the Village's fiscal year starts/ends. Ms. Tarka states that the fiscal year starts on May 1st, thus new funds will be available to the HPC for Historic Preservation Month in May 2023. Chairperson George asked if individuals or groups could donate to the HPC for

events/items and what the process would be. Ms. Tarka stated that she would follow-up with the Commission on that question. Ms. Tarka stated that she will send the Commission more information on prior Historic Preservation Month Activities and the HPC can table the discussion for next month.

c. Commission Assistance & Mentoring Program (CAMP)

Ms. Tarka provided the group with information on CAMP.

7. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Chairperson George explained that the group that he attended the Kendall County Historic Preservation Commission meeting on August 15, 2022 at the Fern Dell Museum. He stated that local historic preservation commissions are working together to preserve history in the surrounding communities. During the meeting, the Kendall and Bristol County Historic Structure Survey was explained. Chairperson George stated that he volunteered for a Saturday date for the Historic Structure Survey.

8. REPORTS

a. Commissioner's Report

No Report

b. Oswegoland Park District Report / Oswego Heritage Association Report

No Report

c. Development Services Report

No Report

9. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Kendall and Bristol County Historic Structure Survey. Dates are to be determined. Volunteers would travel with consultants hired by the counties to between 15-20 sites per day. Volunteers would be asked to assist on 2 to 4 days. A training session would occur this fall at a date yet to be determined. I will forward the information from Matt Asselmeier from Kendall County, Commissioners should contact Mr. Asselmeier directly if interested.

d. NEXT MEETING – Wednesday, October 26, 2022

e. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Zentner, second Commissioner Natonek adjourned the meeting at 8:23 p.m.

Valeria Tarka

Valeria Tarka, Secretary