

Village of Oswego
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

March 27, 2024, at 7:00 PM
Location: Oswego Village Hall,
100 Parkers Mill, Oswego, Illinois

1. CALL TO ORDER

A meeting of the Oswego Historic Preservation Commission was called to order at 7:09 pm.

2. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Commissioners Zentner, Barrow, Murray, Schwarz

Members Absent: Commissioners George, Terrazas

Others Present: Rachel Riemenschneider

3. MINUTES – Approve Minutes for January 24, 2024.

A motion was made by Commissioner Murray and seconded by Commissioner Zentner to approve the minutes from the January 24, 2024, meeting with no changes.

AYES: Zentner, Barrow, Murray, Schwarz

NAYS: None

ABSTAINS: None

4. PUBLIC FORUM

No members of the public were present.

5. OLD BUSINESS

a. Downtown Oswego Historic District (DOHD)

i. Proposed sign locations

Ms. Riemenschneider discussed information from Public Works Director Jennifer Hughes regarding signs downtown and presented an alternative proposal for the historic district signs, which would include a street sign-style sign at either end of the district (in the locations previously agreed on), and one ground-mounted bronze sign centrally located at the intersection of Washington Street and Main Street.

Commissioners discussed the idea and generally agreed with the new direction. There was discussion about including more information on the bronze sign since it will be at a pedestrian scale. The cost was discussed in relation to the HPCs budget. Commissioner Murray suggested including information about the founding of Oswego, including the year it was established and some of the original names of the town. Ms. Riemenschneider agreed to re-engage the companies who provided quotes for the bronze signs to get new information with the new parameters in mind. Ms. Riemenschneider will also coordinate with public works on the different street sign options available.

b. Budget Review and Sign Quotes

This item was discussed as part of Item a – Downtown Oswego Historic District.

c. Harvey One-Room Schoolhouse sign update

Ms. Riemenschneider presented the location of the sign at the northwest corner of the Harvey Rd roundabout. Commissioners generally agreed that a smaller (around 18"x 24"), pedestrian-oriented sign would be most appropriate. They agreed that there should be some text and pictures, and ultimately direct the readers to the website. Commissioner Zentner volunteered to draft text for the website and sign.

d. Honorary Street Name application: Justice Rita Garman

Commissioners discussed next steps for putting up the sign and whether an event is appropriate. Commissioner Murray agreed to try to contact Justice Garman to let her know about the Honorary Street Name and see if she would be interested in some type of event. Commissioner Zentner suggested using her Supreme Court biography for the website.

Commissioner Barrow indicated she is working on an Honorary Street Name application for September.

e. 2024 Strategic Plan

Commissioner Zentner asked for clarification on the Property of the Season and Honorary Street Name goal. Commissioners agreed that it should be listed as two separate goals for clarity. Ms. Riemenschneider agreed to make the change and bring the updated plan before the commission at the next meeting for a vote to adopt.

Commissioners discussed the list of past Properties of the Seasons. There was general agreement that a property should be chosen each summer and winter, and that the project should be renamed. Commissioners will come to the next meeting with ideas for new names. Commissioner Murray suggested having the Pillars home as the property of the season for this summer. Ms. Riemenschneider agreed to bring the Pillars article from 2007 to the next meeting.

6. NEW BUSINESS

a. 2023 CLG Report

Ms. Riemenschneider explained that the Village is required to submit an annual report to the Illinois State Historic Preservation Office regarding HPC activities in 2023. Commissioners confirmed that the commission held one event in 2023 (the Downtown Historic District Walking Tour) and that no commissioners attended any preservation-related trainings or seminars.

7. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

None.

8. REPORTS

a. Commissioners' Reports

Commissioner Barrow enquired about whether the HPC should partner with the Little White School House Museum on a Historic Preservation Month event. She agreed to reach out to them about an event and generally about resuming some type of relationship or partnership.

b. Oswegoland Park District / Oswego Heritage Association Report – none

c. Development Services Report – none

9. ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

10. NEXT MEETING

Ms. Riemenschneider indicated that the next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 24, 2024.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Murray made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Commissioner Zentner seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned 7:58 pm.

AYES: Zentner, Barrow, Murray, Schwarz
NAYS: None
ABSTAINS: None

Rachel Riemenschneider

Rachel Riemenschneider, Secretary