

The regular meeting of the West Seneca Historical Commission was called to order by Chairperson Lang at 6:32 P.M.

Roll Call: Present - Paul Lang, Chairperson
Ray Ball
Fran D'Amico
Michael Siuta

Chairperson Lang stated Maureen Berbari was not able to be present and the commission anticipates her appointment.

Motion by Mr. Ball, seconded by Ms. D'Amico, to waive the reading and approve the meeting minutes of September 4, 2024.

Ayes: All

Noes: None

Motion: Carried

Chairperson Lang clarified references to Julian Adams and stated he is the Historic Preservation Director for Carmina Wood Design who has been a reference to the commission.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Review of CLG Grant – Survey Status

Chairperson Lang stated Preservation Studios will be making the submission to NYS SHPO this week. Typically, the review by SHPO is 30 days. Preservation Studios advised that SHPO is undergoing repositioning and is uncertain if the 30-day timeframe will affect but the reviewer for the submission is not a part of the changes.

Chairperson Lang stated that Preservation Studios' proposal included at least one public meeting. Preservation Studios will run for awareness and education. The proposed agenda for the meeting includes an overview of the goals, process and findings, discussion of the next steps, explanations of the benefits and protections the designations can provide, and a question-and-answer session. Mr. Ball questioned if the Historical Commission members will receive this information prior to the meeting. Chairperson Lang confirmed this, and stated the meeting will be scheduled after SHPO's feedback is received. Mr. Ball suggested scheduling the meeting after the holidays but not delaying the meeting too long. Ms. D'Amico questioned how the public and members of the districts would be notified of the meeting and Mr. Siuta questioned the timeframe for the notification. Chairperson Lang stated he anticipates using the same notification methods for Zoning Board and Planning Board meetings. Secretary Martin suggested adding the newsletter, also. Mr. Ball prefers providing notification of more than 10 days and feels 30 days would be more suitable. Ms. D'Amico agreed and questioned if property owners in the identified district would receive specific notification. Chairperson Lang stated he understands specific notification would be required when a local district is adopted, and reminded all that listing a property on the National Register has no impact on a property. Mr. Ball stated he prefers property owners to be aware of actions affecting their property.

Chairperson Lang stated the commission has not received authority to act on anything at this point and advised the members he has provided updates to Supervisor Dickson and Deputy Supervisor Greenan. Chairperson Lang will need to provide a presentation to the Town Board.

Secretary Martin explained to the students in attendance the purpose of the Historical Commission for the Town of West Seneca. Ms. D'Amico stated Orchard Park has had a commission in place and West Seneca has just been instituted. Mr. Suita stated there are 2 laws for the Town Board to consider: designating a building as historical and guidance for demolition. Ms. D'Amico stated tax cuts and grants are available with this designation.

Secretary Martin encouraged the commission to reach out to their liaison Councilmember Kims for assistance attending a Town Board meeting.

Mr. Suita expressed concern that the codes have not been adopted and the commission cannot move forward. Mr. Ball is concerned about this, also. Chairperson Lang is concerned that the grant will be completed, the town has paid for the services, and the Historical Commission will not be able to act on it and referred to the Clinton Street property.

Ms. D'Amico questioned if the presentation by Preservation Studios will be made known to the general public. Chairperson Lang stated ideally the presentation would be targeted to the property owners in the NR (National Register) district and the general public. Mr. Suita suggested making applications available at the meeting. Mr. Ball cautioned against providing applications before the commission has the authority to act on them.

Chairperson Lang stated he will draft a letter to the Town Board and circulate copies of nominations from Preservation Studios when received and commented that payment to Preservation Studios is being sorted out.

Chairperson Lang questioned if the commission should apply for another grant. Mr. Ball and Ms. D'Amico agreed that specific buildings and schools should be reviewed and include Town Historian Jim Pace. Chairperson Lang stated he would like to seek assistance from the town's grant writer for the next round of CFA grants. Mr. Ball suggested reviewing regions of the town versus specific buildings commenting that the west side is older.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Chairperson's Report: Board Membership / General Effort Advancement

Chairperson Lang stated Maureen Barbary meets all the requirements for the open position and would like to move forward with her appointment.

ISSUES OF THE PUBLIC / COMMUNICATIONS BY BOARD MEMBERS

No comments were received.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mr. Ball, seconded by Mr. Siuta, to adjourn the meeting at 6:57 P.M.

Ayes: All

Noes: None

Motion: Carried