

Amended 2/5/25

The Hammond Historic Preservation Commission held a meeting on Tuesday, January 7, 2025, in person and via [Zoom.us](https://zoom.us).

The meeting began at 5:35 p.m.

PRESENT

Amanda Aguilera (IP)
Anne Taylor (IP)
Kevin Clutter (IP)
Laurie Czulno (IP)
Janet Evans (IP)
Christopher Jones (IP)
Debbie McGough (IP)
Patrick Swibes (IP)

ABSENT

ALSO PRESENT

Brian L. Poland, AICP
Director of City Planning

Tom Novak
Assistant City Planner

Shannon Morris-Smith
Secretary

Ray Escamilla
I.T., Zoom

PRESENT- 8

ABSENT- 0

QUORUM

Mr. Swibes called for a motion to revise the agenda. Ms. Taylor so moved, seconded by Ms. Czulno. Roll call vote. Amanda Aguilera/yes, Anne Taylor/yes, Kevin Clutter/yes, Laurie Czulno/yes, Janet Evans/yes, Christopher Jones/yes, Debbie McGough/yes, Patrick Swibes/yes. 8 "Ayes", 0 "Nays", 0 "Absent", 0 "Abstentions". Motion carried.

Mr. Swibes called for the 2025 elections.
Mr. Poland conducted the elections.

Election of Offices and Committees

Ms. Taylor nominated Patrick Swibes for 2025 Chairperson, seconded by Mr. Jones. There were no other nominations. Roll call vote. Amanda Aguilera/yes, Anne Taylor/yes, Kevin Clutter/yes, Laurie Czulno/yes, Janet Evans/yes, Christopher Jones/yes, Debbie McGough/yes, Patrick Swibes/yes. 8 "Ayes", 0 "Nays", 0 "Absent", 0 "Abstentions". Motion carried. Mr. Swibes was elected as the 2025 Chairperson.

Ms. McGough nominated Janet Evans for the 2025 Vice-Chairperson, seconded by Ms. Czulno. There were no other nominations. Roll call vote. Amanda Aguilera/yes, Anne Taylor/yes, Kevin Clutter/yes, Laurie Czulno/yes, Janet Evans/yes, Christopher Jones/yes, Debbie McGough/yes, Patrick Swibes/yes. 8 "Ayes", 0 "Nays", 0 "Absent", 0 "Abstentions". Motion carried. Ms. Evans was elected as the 2025 Vice-Chairperson.

Mr. Swibes resumed presiding of the meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Swibes called for a motion to table the minutes for October 1, 2024. Ms. Taylor so moved, seconded by Ms. Czulno. Roll call vote. Amanda Aguilera/yes, Anne Taylor/yes, Kevin Clutter/yes, Laurie Czulno/yes, Janet Evans/yes, Christopher Jones/yes, Debbie McGough/yes, Patrick Swibes/yes. 8 "Ayes", 0 "Nays", 0 "Absent", 0 "Abstentions". Motion carried.

Mr. Swibes called for a motion to table the minutes for the December 10, 2025 meeting. Ms. Taylor so moved, seconded by Ms. Taylor. Roll call vote. Amanda Aguilera/yes, Anne Taylor/yes, Kevin Clutter/yes, Laurie Czulno/yes, Janet Evans/yes, Christopher Jones/yes, Debbie McGough/yes, Patrick Swibes/yes. 8 "Ayes", 0 "Nays", 0 "Absent", 0 "Abstentions". Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

2025 Committees

There was no discussion on the committee assignments. The committees will remain the same.

Mr. Swibes motioned to accept the committees as presented. Ms. Czulno so moved, seconded by Ms. McGough. Roll call vote. Amanda Aguilera/yes, Anne Taylor/yes, Kevin Clutter/yes, Laurie Czulno/yes, Janet Evans/yes, Christopher Jones/yes, Debbie McGough/yes, Patrick Swibes/yes. 8 "Ayes", 0 "Nays", 0 "Absent", 0 "Abstentions". Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Discussion and Approval of the 2025 Goals and Projects

Mr. Poland lead a discussion on the Goals and Projects updates from the December 10, 2024 meeting. Mr. Poland advised the Commissioners that any changes to the Goals under section II, bullet #2, regarding recategorizing and separating the industrial and commercial buildings would have to be done by the committee designation committee. There were no changes to the draft goals from the Commissioners.

Mr. Swibes called for a motion to approve the 2025 Goals as revised by staff. Ms. Taylor so moved, seconded by Mr. Jones. Roll call vote. Amanda Aguilera/yes, Anne Taylor/yes, Kevin Clutter/yes, Laurie Czulno/yes, Janet Evans/yes, Christopher Jones/yes, Debbie McGough/yes, Patrick Swibes/yes. 8 "Ayes", 0 "Nays", 0 "Absent", 0 "Abstentions". Motion carried.

Mr. Poland confirmed the discussion from the December 10, 2024 meeting regarding the Wolf Lake bike trail and changing it to the Monon Line. The Commissioners confirmed there was a discussion on #4 of the Goals. Mr. Poland stated the change to #2 would be similar to the change on the Goals by updating the designation list.

Mr. Novak discussed 20 Rimbach Street with the Commissioners as a local landmark candidate. Mr. Novak would distribute information on the home to the Commissioners to review.

Mr. Swibes called for a motion to approve the 2025 Projects as amended by staff. Ms. McGough so moved, seconded by Ms. Taylor. Roll call vote. Amanda Aguilera/yes, Anne Taylor/yes, Kevin Clutter/yes, Laurie Czulno/yes, Janet Evans/yes, Christopher Jones/yes, Debbie

McGough/yes, Patrick Swibes/yes. 8 "Ayes", 0 "Nays", 0 "Absent", 0 "Abstentions". Motion carried.

Project Updates

Educational Assistance and Communications Committee

On-line display – Ms. Evans stated the three (3) topics for the 2025 projects have been chosen. The display board presentation for Preservation Month would recognize anonymous buildings within the city that have architectural features. The site addresses would not be identified. There was a discussion on why the site addresses would not be identified.

Ms. Czulno advised the Commissioners that all of the 2024 projects were completed. Mr. Poland asked if the City Hall quiz was still active. Mr. Poland requested that Tom get a status update and usage report for the next meeting.

2025 Project/Little Red Schoolhouse – There were no new updates.

Special Projects Committee - There were no new projects to report.

Designation Committee – There were no new updates.

Design Review Committee – There were no new updates.

5935 Hohman Avenue - Montessori Schoolhouse – Mr. Novak stated Ms. Dedelow advised him that their Board approved the scope of work for the front patio at their November meeting. The work is not intended to begin until Spring 2025. Thus, the contractor had not filed for a building permit. The COA document for the HPC approved work at the October meeting.

Mr. Poland further discussed with the Commissioners and staff that the COA would expire after one (1) year. There would be a renewal procedure that would need to be done if the COA expires.

229 Ogden Street – Mr. Novak stated there were no new updates.

CORRESPONDENCE

There was none.

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS

There were none.

STAFF COMMENTS

The Commissioners confirmed for Mr. Poland that they received the 2025 meeting calendar.

LIAISON COMMENTS

There was none.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Catherine Perin, 3215 Grand Boulevard, Highland, IN 46322

- Read a portion of a letter written by Kenneth Schoon in 2022 that she wanted to read for the record. See attachment.
- A natural area that's 4700 years old deserves was an example of living example of Hammond history.
- More ancient than any building and needs to be preserved.

Andrea Senters, 6804 Idaho Avenue, Hammond, IN 46323

- Enjoys the history, nature, and the lake
- Provided a proposal to use Briar East like the Sandridge Nature Center to educate children.
- Since 2016 the group has done clean ups at the site.
- Natural Oak trees were over 400 years old.

Ken Rosek, 6750 Idaho Avenue, Hammond, IN 46323

- Water tower was the beach 3500 years ago
- Dunes extend from Parrish Avenue to Grand Avenue.
- Last unprotected remnant of the High Tolleston Dune
- 2000 years older than Gibson Park.
- 1959 aerial photograph that shows the area and undisturbed trees.
- Purdue owns the Pellar Park portion of the dune. It was donated to be a park.

Casey King, 632 Burton Court, Whiting, IN 46394

- Shared article from Chicago Sun Times (12-29-24) "The Save is a Goal"
- Read city code for HPC regarding protection of "areas"
- Read a portion of a letter from Jim Sweeney, Director of Isaac Walton League of America and Friends of the Kankakee
- 32 acre space is the greatest remediator of pollution and flooding in the city.
- Urged the HPC to put this on their agenda

Aristotle Galanos, 934 174th Place, Hammond, IN 46324

- Interested in giving Paul Henry's an honorary plaque.
- A business since the 1880's. Started as a hardware store.
- Owned by David Mueller the great grandson of the original owner
- Currently facilitates art exhibits, punk shows, acoustic jams, etc.
- Great space for artist, musicians, etc. to network.

Mr. Poland advised Mr. Galanos the owner would have to petition for the plaque.

Julian Shloss, 110 Clark Street, Lowell, IN

- Grew up in Hammond
- Discussed a variety of places in the area that have some remnants that the community uses for education and recreation.
- Green space is appreciated in south lake county and in north lake county.

Daniel Haretti, 10239 St. James Place, Munster, IN 46321

- Was a 25 year resident in Hammond
- Bieker Wood was similar to Briar Wood. This is located at Ridge & Columbia in the middle of an urban area.
- Munster is proud of the area
- Briar East Woods should be preserved for the residents of the area

Terry Stegall, 8577 Kleinman Road, Highland, IN

- Formerly lived at Ridgewood Townhomes from 1994-2009 adjacent to the subject property
- Residents enjoyed the woods
- Do not destroy something that cannot be reproduced
- Professor Schoon was amazed and would have taken his students to Briar East Woods before taking them to Gibson Woods.
- Encourages the Commission to make a recommendation to preserve this land.

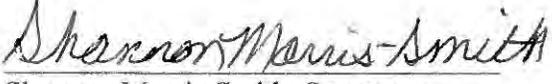
ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Czulno motioned to adjourn, seconded by Ms. McGough. The meeting adjourned at 6:24 p.m.

APPROVED: 2-4-25


Patrick Swibes, Chairperson

ATTEST:


Shannon Morris-Smith, Secretary

Schoon, Kenneth

Sat, Jul 30, 10:04 AM

to ruthmores41@gmail.com, me

Ruth,

Thank you for sending me the evaluation written by Mr. Pruitt about the impacted area in Hessville. In general, it is well-written, but I do disagree with the geological description. He wrote:

"The woodland that would be impacted by the proposed project is partially a remnant of the native sand dune and wetland swale ecosystem that existed in this portion of Hammond at the time of the city's founding and partially regrowth of lands disturbed by development of adjacent properties."

My objection is calling this area a remnant of the native "sand dune and wetland swale ecosystem." One of the best-preserved sections of dune and swale topography is located at Gibson Woods, a short distance from the parcel under discussion. Gibson Woods is a nature preserve, part of the Lake County Parks System. (In the Calumet Area, these features are sometimes called the "lower Tolleston Shorelines" (a term coined by geologist J. Harlan Bretz in 1941.) Part of the problem may lie in that "dune and swale" is a misnomer. A far better name would have been "sand ridge and swale" as this type of landscape is composed of parallel sand ridges interspersed with low swales often under water during all or part of the year. Each ridge was once at the shore of Lake Michigan. Each ridge is younger than the ridges south of it.

The parcel evaluated by Mr. Pruitt is composed of sand dunes in a rather haphazard arrangement -- not the long and parallel arrangement of "dune and swale."

This is important because this landscape is older than the dune and swale landscapes. It was originally formed during the time period when the Lake Michigan shoreline was at what is now 169th Street beginning about 4,700 years ago. None of the dune and swale landscape had yet been formed.

Before retiring from IU Northwest, I had taken my students to Gibson Woods every year for perhaps 20 years. If I had then known about the parcel of land now in question south of 169th Street, I would have taken the students to that location first, and then gone up to Gibson Woods so that students would see both locations thus see the difference in the sand features.

The area certainly has been altered since its formation. Naturally at first the wind would have blown and on to and off of the dunes. That process would have basically stopped when vegetation grew on the dunes themselves. Most obvious alterations caused by human activity are the paths. Mr. Pruitt notes that alterations were also made during or after adjacent development. I couldn't see how that could be proven and would be interested in seeing an explanation of that description.

Determining the age of the larger (non-cottonwood) trees in the area would help confirm the ages of the sand dunes.

K Schoon

Exhibit A