

The Hammond Historic Preservation Commission held a meeting on Tuesday, April 1, 2025, in person and via Zoom.us.

The meeting began at 5:31 p.m.

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

ABSENT  
Christopher Jones

ALSO PRESENT  
Tom Novak  
Assistant City Planner  
  
Shannon Morris-Smith  
Recording Secretary  
  
Ray Escamilla  
I.T., Zoom

PRESENT- 7

ABSENT- 1

QUORUM

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mr. Swibes called for a motion to table the minutes for October 1, 2024 meeting. Ms. Czulno so moved, seconded by Mr. Clutter. Roll call vote. Amanda Aguilera/yes, Anne Taylor/yes, Kevin Clutter/yes, Laurie Czulno/yes, Janet Evans/Abstained, Debbie McGough/yes, Patrick Swibes/yes. 6 "Ayes", 0 "Nays", 1 "Absent", 1 "Abstentions". Motion carried.

Mr. Swibes called for a motion to approve the minutes for the March 4, 2024 meeting. Ms. Czulno so moved, seconded by Mr. Clutter. Roll call vote. Amanda Aguilera/yes, Anne Taylor/yes, Kevin Clutter/yes, Laurie Czulno/yes, Janet Evans/Abstained, Debbie McGough/yes, Patrick Swibes/yes. 6 "Ayes", 0 "Nays", 1 "Absent", 1 "Abstentions". Motion carried.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

There was none.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

##### **Project Updates**

##### **Educational Assistance and Communications Committee**

**On-line display** -- Ms. Czulno stated the paperwork for the May display was almost completed. The proclamation was in draft form and would be printed and framed once it was finalized. The committee was on schedule to meet the May 1<sup>st</sup> target date.

**2025 Project/Little Red Schoolhouse** -- Ms. Aguilera stated there were no new updates. Ms. Aguilera was awaiting a call back from the LRSH representative to set up resuming work at the building.

**Special Projects Committee** -- There were no new updates.

**Designation Committee** – Mr. Swibes stated the committee met and focused on selecting the top five building on the list. The committee added a sixth building which was listed in the number one spot. This building was The Banc/The Reserve, located at 5231 Hohman Avenue. The idea of approaching the owner with preservation and being listed as a local landmark would be based on the interior conversion and the special events center in the lobby. The exterior of the building did not have any major changes, except for a few detail pieces that were panels/limestone carvings that were removed to put in windows to maximize interior space to create apartments.

Ms. Taylor stated it was great that the committee added an additional building. The Banc building was a great choice. The reuse of the building has been adapted and the owners understand the importance of historic value for their product and they have a love for old buildings. In addition, the staff has a good relationship with the owner and this was positive a that a conversation about the steps and the envision of the Commission could be discussed.

There was a discussion on the Hohman Avenue Commercial Historic District form.

Ms. Czulno asked if the limestone pieces that were removed saved. Ms. Taylor stated the pieces were being stored at Public Works. The remnants would be used in the building of Rimbach Square.

There was a discussion on the naming of the Banc/Reserve.

Mr. Novak commented that it was great find an owner that was willing to go along with the process. Mr. Novak further stated the Banc was not a part of the Hohman Avenue Historic District, but was referenced in the Hohman Avenue Commercial Historic District. There was a discussion on the boundaries of the Hohman Avenue Commercial Historic District.

Mr. Swibes called for a motion to amend the historic preservation list of priority buildings adopted on 3/26/25 to add 5231 Hohman Avenue, the Banc/Reserve building. Mr. Clutter so moved, seconded by Ms. McGough. Roll call vote: . Amanda Aguilera/yes, Anne Taylor/yes, Kevin Clutter/yes, Laurie Czulno/yes, Janet Evans/Abstained, Debbie McGough/yes, Patrick Swibes/yes. 6 "Ayes", 0 "Nays", 1 "Absent", 1 "Abstentions". Motion carried.

**Design Review Committee** – There were no new updates.

**5935 Hohman Avenue -** Montessori Schoolhouse – Mr. Novak stated there were no new updates.

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

**28-34 Ruth Street** – Mr. Novak reminded the Commissioners to keep a look out for a consultant to reach out to the Commission for information on the history of Harrison Park.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

Mr. Novak reviewed the handout on the Trades Training Workshops in South Bend.

**COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS**

There were none.

**STAFF COMMENTS**

Mr. Novak informed the Commissioners about an oral history workshop that's being hosted by the Hammond Public Library and the Hammond Historical Society. The speaker was Sam Love. This was a free event.

**LIAISON COMMENTS**

There was none.

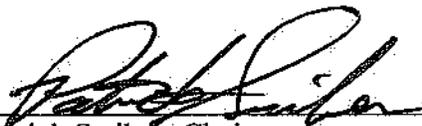
**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were none.

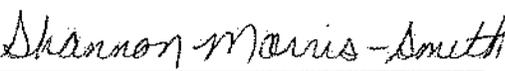
**ADJOURNMENT**

Ms. McGough motioned to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Czulno. The meeting adjourned at 5:50 p.m.

APPROVED: 5-6-2025

  
Patrick Swibes, Chairperson

ATTEST:

  
Shannon Morris-Smith, Secretary