

The Hammond Historic Preservation Commission held a meeting on Tuesday, November 4, 2025, in the ground floor conference room, in person and via [Zoom.us](https://zoom.us).

The meeting began at 5:30 p.m.

**PRESENT**

Kevin Clutter (IP)  
Laurie Czulno (IP)  
Janet Evans (IP)  
Christopher Jones (IP)  
Patrick Swibes (IP)  
Anne Taylor (IP)

**ABSENT**

Amanda Aguilera  
Debbie McGough

**ALSO PRESENT**

Brian L. Poland, AICP  
Director of City Planning

Tom Novak  
Asst. City Planner

Shannon Morris-Smith  
Recording Secretary

**PRESENT- 6**

**ABSENT- 2**

**QUORUM**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mr. Swibes called for a motion to table the minutes for the September 9, 2025 meeting. Ms. Taylor so moved, seconded by Ms. Czulno. Roll call vote. Kevin Clutter/yes, Laurie Czulno/yes, Janet Evans/yes, Christopher Jones/yes, Anne Taylor/yes, Patrick Swibes/yes. 6 "Ayes", 0 "Nays", 2 "Absent", 0 "Abstentions". Motion carried.

Mr. Swibes called for a motion to approve the minutes for the October 7, 2025 meeting. Ms. Czulno so moved, seconded by Mr. Jones. Roll call vote. Kevin Clutter/yes, Laurie Czulno/yes, Janet Evans/yes, Christopher Jones/yes, Anne Taylor/yes, Patrick Swibes/yes. 6 "Ayes", 0 "Nays", 2 "Absent", 0 "Abstentions". Motion carried.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Discussion and Approval of the 2026 Goals and Projects**

Mr. Poland introduced and lead a discussion on the Goals, Projects, and Committees. There was no discussion on recommendations to change the current goals.

Ms. Czulno stated the Botanical Garden was a topic that was being discussed for a project, and the May Preservation Month display.

Mr. Poland encouraged the Commissioners to think about what the Commission should be doing to take the Commission further. There was an additional request to think about individuals that may be able to fill the Architect/Contractor vacancy on the Commission. Mr. Poland reviewed that the committee structure would need to be revisited and possibly restructured.

Ms. Taylor suggested that the Gateway Station Signage project include the Commission. Mr. Poland provided background information to the Commissioners on the mitigation measures that were developed when the South Shore project went through the federal environmental review

process. The OK Champion building at Sheffield and Hoffman was demolished. There were mitigation measures that were developed to compensate for the demolition of the building. Documentation of the OK Champion building was one of the mitigation measures and preparation of a National Register nomination was the other mitigation measure. Blake Swihart, Indiana Landmarks, reached out to the City with an idea of photo displays instead of the National Register nomination. The photo displays would be at the Gateway Station. Indiana Landmarks would update the City once the change has been approved by SHPO.

Mr. Novak recommended the Green Line Street Car Service electric trolley line that was located at Wabash and Gostlin as a project. There was a discussion on the comparison of the past electric train lines to the present electric train lines. Ms. Taylor suggested the project title would be "Connecting to the Past, to Move Forward".

Mr. Jones suggested a "History of Hammond" display at the Sports Plex. There was a further discussion on the existing DVD of the "History of Hammond" that could be played at the Sports Plex. Mr. Poland recommended this idea to be placed on the Goals list. There would need to be a discussion with the I.T. Department related to compatibility/conversion of the DVD, and permission from the Parks Department. Upon completion of the Goals and Projects discussions, Mr. Poland asked the Commissioners to email him any additional Goals and Project recommendations.

### **2026 Meeting Calendar**

The Commissioners were reminded that the next meeting date was on Tuesday, December 9, 2025. There was a review and discussion on the draft 2026 meeting schedule.

Chairperson Swibes motioned for approval of the 2026 meeting calendar. Ms. Taylor so moved, seconded by Mr. Jones. Roll call vote. Kevin Clutter/yes, Laurie Czulno/yes, Janet Evans/yes, Anne Taylor/yes, Christopher Jones/yes, Patrick Swibes/yes. 6 "Ayes", 0 "Nays", 2 "Absent", 0 "Abstentions". Motion carried.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### **Project Updates**

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

**On-line display** – Ms. Czulno reported that the online display titles have been corrected. Information on the Towle House has been received and work will begin soon. Ms. Czulno requested to have the digital display on the gohammond website main page carousel for a couple of weeks.

**Botanic Garden** – Mr. Poland reviewed and updated the Commissioners on the status of the environmental review. Correspondence was sent to the Advisory Council of Historic Preservation. The Advisory Council of Historic Preservation responded with concerns that the Indian Tribes and public engagement was not properly addressed. A legal notice was published in the Times to solicit public comment, and eight (8) tribes were contacted. Both of those contact

methods required a thirty (30) day time period was scheduled to expire within one (1) day. There has been response from two (2) tribes with corrections to the current point of contacts. No future correspondence was anticipated. Mr. Poland further stated reengagement with the Advisory Council of Historic Preservation would be dependent on the duration of the government shutdown and finalizing the Memorandum of Agreement. Mr. Poland further stated the final adjustments to the Memorandum of Agreement would be done within the next week. There had been discussions on the mitigation agreement with the consultant. Ms. Czulno's research was provided to the consultant to use for their report.

There was a discussion on salvageable items in the building. There were no architectural features determined to be salvageable.

**28-34 Ruth Street** – Mr. Poland advised the Commissioners that there was one (1) more thing to do to satisfy the mitigation measures. SHPO has the photos and research materials that were requested. The information would need to be made available on the City's website.

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

**Online Website Report** – Mr. Novak stated there was no report available. There was a technical error with Google analytics.

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

**Designation Committee** – Mr. Swibes stated he emailed information to Mr. Poland to review. Mr. Poland has not been able to review the information.

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

**5935 Hohman Avenue - Montessori Schoolhouse** – Mr. Poland stated that a COA was completed. A permit has not been issued.

**229 Ogden Street** – Mr. Jones stated the property has been sold. There was a discussion on monitoring the property and reaching out to the new owners to educate them on the historic property and the responsibilities that are required. Mr. Poland requested that the designations committee put together a welcome packet and official information from the Historic Preservation Commission. Ms. Taylor recommended that the information was sent in Spanish. Mr. Swibes agreed to take the lead on the welcome packet. Mr. Jones would provide information to Mr. Swibes.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

There was none.

**COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS**

Ms. Evans advised the Commissioners that Alan Faulkner passed. There was a discussion on the services for Mr. Faulkner.

**STAFF COMMENTS**

Mr. Poland reminded the Commissioners that the next meeting was on Tuesday, December 9, 2025. And wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

**LIAISON COMMENTS**

There was none.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

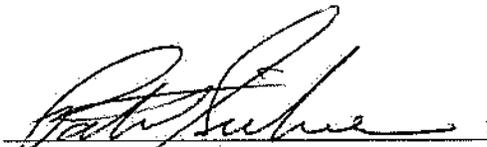
There were none.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Swibes called to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_

1-6-26

  
Patrick Swibes, Chairperson

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_

  
Shannon Morris-Smith, Secretary