

Riverside Historical Commission

Meeting Minutes

Monday, September 18, 2023

Call to order: 7:02 PM by Chairperson Richard Julian.

Present: Commissioners Richard Julian, Constance Guardi, Ryan Kelly, James Petrzilka, Samantha Schroeder, Gina Furey

Minutes of July 17, 2023: Motion to approve by Constance Guardi. Seconded by Samantha Schroeder. Motion carried.

Financial Report: No Financial Report received.

Chairperson's Report:

- * Richard Julian reported that Patrick Smith-Ray has resigned from the Commission and we are seeking a new Commissioner.
- * WILL-TV Champaign is doing a segment on the Coonley Playhouse.
- * The 2024 Historical Commission Budget and Plan has been submitted to the Village.
- * Amy Downing, the Village Liaison to the Historical Commission, has retired. The Village is actively seeking a replacement. When one is named we will be notified by Ian Splitt.

Lead Commissioner Reports:

- * **Exhibits:** Constance Guardi reported that she will now be assisted by Commissioner Kelly.
 - * The Out-Of-The-Box Modern house exhibit, in collaboration with the Riverside Arts Center, was a great success, and the photographic visuals will be put on display in the Museum.
 - * The IIT tour and lecture on the modern houses is now scheduled and being offered.
 - * The Higgins Plate donation presents some display mounting issues, which Commissioner Ryan will address.
 - * **Merchandise:** Richard Julian reported that all remaining Gretchen McCarthy ornaments have been turned over to the Library for sale.
 - * **Accessions:** Gina Furey reported that there have been 12 accessions this year.
 - * **On-line presence:** Samantha Schroeder reported that additional coordination with the Village will require input from the new Village Liaison.
 - * **Public Presentations:** Jim Petrzilka reported that we have had a successful Tours year so far. In collaboration with the Olmsted Society we have hosted 130 visitors, and a busy October is expected.
 - * Some additional material was provided to Cathy Maloney for her new Riverside book.
 - * **Structure Files :** No report this month as the lead Commissioners position is vacant.
- Accessions:** The wooden gas pipe is now on display in the Library case in the west well House.

Continuing Business:

- * Museum Calendar 2024: Samantha Schroeder shared selected photos of vintage Riverside businesses that would comprise the calendar. The Commissioners reviewed, commented, and selected what they considered the most calendar worthy.
- * Landmark Pamphlet: Former Commissioner Smith-Ray has not yet provided. Gina Furey will contact him.
- * Local History Files Digitizing Report: Jim Petrzilka is reviewing and selecting the first files to be digitized.
- * Human Remains from Bloomingbank Rd: Jim Petrzilka reported that the University doing the DNA analysis has responded that the Professor leading the work has retired. We have a new contact to either carry on the work or have the remains returned.
- * Structure file posting on Village website: No information update yet from Ian Splitt.
- * 2024 Plan and Budget: General discussion. No Village feedback yet.
- * Museum table at Farmers Market on September 27th: Commissioners filled in 2 hour duty tours from 2:30-7:00pm. We will offer items for sale and some giveaways.

Public Comment: None

New Business:

- * New Museum duty schedule was prepared

Adjournment: Jim Petrzilka motioned to adjourn at 8:14 PM. Seconded by Ryan Murphy. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted by James Petrzilka (Scribe)