

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
MICHIGAN CITY HISTORIC REVIEW BOARD
8-24-2015**

CALL TO ORDER

August 24, 2015, 7:00 p.m.

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT:

Todd Dickard, Joyce Dalton, Derrick Dircks, Jacqueline Hendricks, Roger Potratz, Connie Anderson, Tom Przybylinski.

VOTING MEMBERS ABSENT:

City Planner Craig Phillips, Gigi McCabe-Miele

NON-VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ronald Bensch; Paul Hayden

NON-VOTING MEMBERS ABSENT:

John Newcomb

CITY COUNCIL LIASON:

None

VISITORS PRESENT:

Janet Toyra-Smith, Gail Przybylinski, Debra & Dwayne Hurd

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Joyce Dalton moved, Tom Przybylinski seconded, for approval of minutes of the previous meeting. Passed.

CORRESPONDENCE:

None

CERTIFICATES OF APPROPRIATENESS:

Four on-site reviews were approved:

206 Lafayette, Rich Ricky, a privacy fence

202 11th St: a fence on the property line

427 Washington: fascia & porch replacement

414 8th St: a garage

PRESENTED TO BOARD:

501 E 8th: siding replacement

No samples were presented; Paul Hayden had a favorable report (application COA #07-2015) Tom Przybylinski moved to approve, Joyce Dalton seconded, motion passed.

MAINTENANCE REVIEW:

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

OLD BUSINESS:

Paul Hayden is continuing work on revising the Historic District Guidelines. Paul reported that the Michigan City Board is the only one that he knows of that allows vinyl siding in a Historic District. Tom asked if the information in the booklet becomes a “tool to work with” thru a City approved ordinance. If not he is concerned that the HRB does not have “any teeth” to enforce the guidelines stated in the booklet. He suggests consulting with the City Attorney regarding this question. It was remarked that although there are not many notable or outstanding buildings in Michigan City, we still should stick to high quality standards when remodeling is considered. Roger suggested that we should specify on paper the quality of vinyl siding the Board wants and have these specs available to those homeowners who wish to use vinyl.

Joyce Dalton moved, seconded by Todd Dickard, that the Historical Review Board will approve vinyl siding only if it is the highest grade as determined by the Board and meets all the specifications as determined by the Board.

Roger will bring samples for the Sept Board meeting for consideration.

Tom commented on the use of chain link fencing: he has researched and can find no mention of chain link fencing for other than side yards (chain link is not appropriate for front yards) but nothing is really concretely described. Joyce moved and Todd seconded that no chain fencing be allowed in the Historic District. Existing chain link fencing is to be “grandfathered in” and may be repaired but not replaced.

Paul suggested that a general comment be in the front of the new booklet stating what “grandfathering” means rather than repeating it for every separate instance.

Tom noted that Trinity Episcopal Church, 614 Franklin, wishes to install a decorative wrought iron fence in front of their rectory; he noted that fence heights are limited to 3’.

Paul discussed vinyl window replacement: only sashes and existing trim are to be replaced. The Board has always said to keep ornamental windows such as leaded glass windows.

TV antennas, satellite unites should be added to “mechanical items” in the new booklet.

NEW BUSINESS:

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Jan Toyra-Smith, 408 E 8th, Elston Grove, reported to the Board regarding how the changes made to streets have affected people who live in the Elston Grove neighborhood. There is now much more traffic with these improvements in place, even 18-wheeler semi-trucks travel down this residential street to reach Lighthouse Place (they should go down Michigan Blvd to Hwy 12 to approach the Outlet Mall) ; the brick pavers at the intersections are very noisy as this heavier traffic drives over the bricks.

She asked if any other communities that have historic districts also have busy roads that run thru their historic district. She would like to know if the Historic Review Board has any suggestions to offer that would help the residents cope with these changes.

Discussion noted that perhaps a STOP sign at Lafayette could help slow traffic down and ease the difficulties. This Board cannot make recommendations to other boards, but individuals can attend the Board of Works meeting to help make them aware of the difficulties residents are experiencing.

ADJOURNMENT:

Joyce Dalton moved to adjourn the meeting; Todd Dickard seconded; meeting was adjourned.