

Quincy Preservation Commission

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Quincy Preservation Commission
Tuesday, July 8, 2025
730 Maine, City Hall, council chambers, Quincy, Illinois 62301

MINUTES

Attendance

Members Present: Darin Prost (chairman), Karol Ehmen (vice chair and alderman), William Arp, Paul Geers, Walt Giesing, Suzanne Irwin-Wells, Michelle Khoury, Dick Wellman, Harrison Clark, Olivia Ruetter, Jake Reed (alderman), Jason Parrott (non-voting).

Members Absent: none.

Vacant: 2 (at-large).

Prost calls the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Parrott explains to the commission that minutes from previous meetings are not yet available because he has been shorthanded in his department.

The commission discusses the designation of 1515 Jersey as a local landmark, highlighting its original features. Parrott says the commission has received only one comment about the potential local landmark designation. The features to be protected are board and batten siding, gable detail, a narrow weathervane tower and weather vane, East Lake trim on the tower, dormers with small panes, carriage house doors and wooden shutters. If somebody wants to adjust, alter or replace those features, they must come before the commission for a certificate of appropriateness.

Wellman makes a motion to recommend the designation of 1515 Jersey as a local landmark. Irwin seconds. Motion passed unanimously.

The commission discusses waiving the 45-day wait for the demolition of 304 and 310 Elm because of fire damage while not waiving the 45-day wait for the demolition of 830 N. Fourth. The demolition request came from the contractor (Schaefer) who submitted the demolition permit.

Ehmen makes a motion to recommend the waiving of the 45-day wait for the demolition of 304 and 310 Elm but not to waive the 45-day wait for the demolition of 830 N. Fourth. Arp seconds. Motion passes unanimously.

The commission discusses a request by the owner of 125 East Avenue to paint the cedar shake siding. Parrott says city code allows for painting and does not require a certificate of appropriateness. Wellman says the siding previously was painted. Parrott says the owners want to paint the siding blue and wanted to repair any damaged siding. He says he will contact the owners to let them know to go ahead with their painting plans.

Plans for a preservation dinner for Oct. 22 at Quincy Country Club are discussed. Ehmen said she would ask Anthony Rubano with the Illinois Historic Preservation Office to be the featured speaker that night. Tickets will be sold for \$50 each. Parrott says Janet Conover is coordinating the event and asked for two or three volunteers to help with details. He says he will look into a possible stipend and lodging for Rubano if necessary.

The River's Edge Redevelopment Zone is discussed. Parrott says Studio GWA out of Rockford may be coming to Quincy to make a presentation in late July. He says the District, the Chamber of Commerce and GREDF will be sending mailers to property owners eligible for River's Edge tax credits.

The commission discusses finding people interested in filling two vacancies.

Irwin asks for a date to be set for Mary Lou McGinnis to receive a plaque for her home being designated as a local landmark. Parrott suggests a time in late July. Wellman says he has started creating a one-page newsletter about preservation information that he sends to approximately 2,000 email addressees.

Irwin asks about the possibility of asking Muddy River News to do a video feature called "Muddy River Pews" that would be like "Muddy River Cribs." She also suggests that a member of the commission get a chance to speak on WTAD's radio show to talk about the preservation dinner, now that Mary Griffith has retired. Parrott suggests talking with Kristin Niemann, the city's new communication director, for assistance on that.

Wellman asks for help from the commission about creating a mission statement.

Khoury suggests including local landmark properties on the fall Quincy Preserves tour to help promote the local landmarking process.

The need for sidewalk repairs in the East End Historic District and the possibility of property owners contributing to preservation efforts is discussed. Ehmen says she has noticed several brick sidewalks that need attention without ripping out the bricks and replacing them with concrete. Wellman said he knew someone who had an original brick front walk replaced and would contact that person to find out cost.

With no public comment and no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 6:08 p.m.

David Adam
Community Planner and Developer
Commission Secretary
City of Quincy