Chillicothe Historic Preservation Commission

April 27, 2023

Called to order: 5:34pm

Present: Father Koster, Brenda O’Halloran, Patrice Robertson, Kirsten Mouton

Ex-Officio present: Mayor Teresa Kelly, Councilwoman Stacy Soper, Councilman Reed Dupy, Code Enforcement Gil Gates

Meeting minutes from January 26, 2023, were reviewed. One change was made. Koster moved to approve as amended with a second from O’Halloran. The motion carried.

**Old Business:**

Future railroad/industrial historic district around the Wabash depot-status

 Kirsten had some discussions with SHPO about what survey area would be enough to demarcate a new historic district around the depot. SHPO does not like lines drawn across maps cutting through lots. Lines can be drawn between lots, as opposed to roads, if there is sufficient reason, like residential vs commercial use. A map of a potential survey area was passed around the HPC board. While the boundaries were more to SHPOs liking, the issue came up of not having the 100-150 lots needed to be competitive for a Historic Preservation Fund grant. Gil at the City handed the HPC a GIS map with lots delineated. A lot count is needed and then the potential survey area may need to be extended to the south and/or west; potential historic structures are present in both directions. There was some discussion about old businesses that used to be in these areas. Kirsten will look at the lots and ask Gil for a larger GIS area if needed. She will continue to work towards a grant application.

First Christian Church – Kirsten submitted a draft Eligibility Assessment (EA) to the Church board to consider. She had a conversation recently with one of the church members who said a small group has been diving into their historical records as they thought they had to complete the EA. The group is meeting again in May and will pick the work back up. This is in progress and Kirsten will keep in contact with the church group.

**New Business:**

Local Landmark submission – Connie Greever submitted a Local Landmark nomination application for their property at 400 Third Street, the old Butcher store. The history of the building was discussed. It could qualify as a Local Landmark for its character/development of the community; potentially its ties with a locally significant person; and it is an established/familiar visual feature of the neighborhood. O’Halloran made a motion to approve the nomination and Robertson seconded. Motion carried. Kirsten will put together a packet of information for the Planning and Zoning board. If they approve it, it will go to City Council.

Library housing HPC report and site forms – The Library Director has approved the HPC having the recent survey report and site forms available for the public at the Library in both hard copy and electronic versions. Kirsten would like to add the files for the Local Landmarks as well. A notebook is already in the genealogy room for the National Register Historic Districts and single property (Grace Episcopal Church). Kirsten will check with the City manager/clerk to get a copy of the files.

Review of historic preservation ordinance­ – As part of the SHPO review last August it was suggested the HPC/City review the ordinance; it has been 4 years since it passed. There was some discussion about the difficulties in getting the ordinance passed. HPC board members were asked to review the ordinance for the next meeting and bring any comments or suggestions.

Nest meeting: due to schedule conflicts, the next meeting was moved to Thursday, **August 10 at 530** at the City Hall council chambers.

Adjourned: A motion was made by Koster and seconded by Robertson to adjourn at 6:09. All were in favor.