

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Landmarks Preservation Commission
Held in the Caucus Room of the Municipal Building
On Wednesday, September 14, 2016**

The Chairman, Joe Richvalsky, called the meeting to order at 7:09 P.M.

Roll Call:

Members: Present – Chairman, Joe Richvalsky; Vice Chairman, Ralph White; Lois Shinko, Clint Gault

Guests: Terri Czap, Media Relations, City of Avon

Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of Wednesday, July 13, 2016

A motion was made by Mr. Gault and seconded by Mr. White to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the meeting of Wednesday, July 13, 2016, and approve said minutes as published, and the vote was all ayes.

LPC Project Committees

Landmarks Awards Committee

Mr. White stated that he had an award letter for the owners of the Ridge Bridge house on Detroit Road, the property where the bridge goes from the house to the barn. Mr. Richvalsky had an interesting observation. He said that he has noticed that the owners of a house on Nagel Road who recently received an award letter from the LPC (the grayish-blue cottage Craftsman Style house on Nagel Road), are taking even better care of their property. He said that it is an unexpected plus from the award, this sense of pride.

Mr. White said that for next month he is going to write an award letter to Ron Larsen and wants to have something totally different for him because he is involved in so many different things. He said that Stone Eagle is the one that he wants to commend Mr. Larsen for and then do a separate letter for Olde Avon Village because he has done so much there with the barn and the cottages and the houses. Ms. Shinko added, and also the gardens and ponds there.

History Walk Committee

Mr. Richvalsky asked Ms. Czap to share her terrific news and Ms. Czap announced that the \$10,000. check from First Energy for the History Walk Project has been received and has been deposited in the account of the French Creek Foundation because of their tax status. She said that she will have a story about it in the next City of Avon newsletter.

Ms. Czap then said that she and Matt Smith spent some time at the end of July and scanned some of the historical photos. Mr. Richvalsky stated that Matt Smith had given him the file. Ms. Czap said that the last thing that she has to report is that this morning she received the drawing of the official path for the History Walk. She displayed the drawing and pointed out the location of the path.

There was discussion about the path and everyone felt that it was perfect. Mr. Gault summed it up by saying it is not too long, it is visible so it will not be vandalized, and it is in a place where people

will actually use it because of all the other nearby things to do, such as the pool, and the proposed playground and basketball and tennis courts.

Mr. Richvalsky stated that we now have a graphic design company producing the plaques. The photos are not correct yet but we have given them the text and he said he told them to just place it where it is supposed to go. Since Matt Smith has given him the file of the photos we can now assign the photos. Ms. Czup said that in the newsletter she will put in a request for more Avon historical pictures so whether or not they have to do with this project, we can start getting as much as we can to put into a digital format. Mr. White said that the only pictures he has of a historical stone house are of Stone Eagle. Mr. Richvalsky said that he would love to have a professional take pictures and Ms. Czup said, yes, we have a photographer who is very good and he knows that we are going to ask him. We can give him a list when we are ready and we will have to contact owners to ask for permission. Also, Ms. Czup said, Dodd Camera is a new vendor in town, and she knows them very well professionally, and they are up to the challenge of working with us at a very reasonable cost in terms of scanning, etc. Mr. White stated that that person at Dodd would be the person he needs to talk to in regard to original slides that the Historical Society has. Ms. Czup said that the Mayor would like to sit down and talk to Mr. White about all this because it could be a City project.

Mr. White emphasized that the Historical Society Trustees want to keep their property under their own control. They represent it and need to make their own decisions about it. Mr. Gault stated that, as we have discussed before, not everybody cares about historical things. There is no guarantee that the next Mayor or Mayors who come into office will care and then years go by and nobody cares at all. Mayor Jensen does support all these causes so we should make some sort of effort back and say, yes, thank you and we want to make sure that historical records are preserved. He thought that what is more important than who has claiming rights on pictures is the fact that the pictures carry on. It is important that we do not pass up this opportunity to engage to make sure that we have the support of the City to preserve the pictures, etc. far into the future.

Ms. Czup added that the City is not saying that they will preserve things and be the caretaker, but that they will help support and fund the way for a professional to do this. So Mr. White would take pictures to the professional, say Dodd, and then they would take care of it and give it back to him. Mr. White said he was ok with that. Mr. Gault said, and he just meant that it is nice that there is an ability for someone to come in and help get this whole process moving which has never happened before. Mr. White stated that some of the Historical Society's pictures are over 100 years old and they have existed that long by being passed down from one person to the next in the Historical Society. Mr. Richvalsky said that it is appropriate for the Historical Society to be the keeper of the historical documents, so this conversation is just about getting other parties involved to help that effort but no one is taking it away from the Historical Society.

Mr. White noted that Jean Fischer, who has donated money for a plaque, is getting anxious because she has not seen a plaque and he asked about a timeline. Mr. Richvalsky said that it is a big project because it is a collaborative project. He asked Mr. White to give Ms. Fischer an update and he would say to tell her we should have something by the first of the year. We will be getting final proofs and the Committee will bring those proofs in here for a presentation to this Commission who will then vote on passing it. To continue his update, Mr. Richvalsky stated that the text for eight of the plaques has been written and is being reviewed by a friend of his, who is an editor. He has contacted the high school journalism teacher and the students are very excited to do the text for the remaining six. Ms. Czup reminded the LPC that we do not have money for every plaque yet. She will put a request for

funds In her newsletter article. Mr. Richvalsky said that the article sounds great but he suggested having separate articles for the request for funds and the project of searching for historic photos.

Mr. Richvalsky stated that the History Walk Committee should probably meet this month and after discussion, it was decided to have a meeting on Monday, October 3rd, at Mr. Gault's office.

Landmark Nominations Committee

Ms. Shinko reported that she contacted Ron Krystowski about his barn, and she also contacted Troy Zolte, and the owners of the Dairy Treat on Colorado. She has not heard back from Mr. Krystowski and Mr. Zolte, but the Dairy Treat chose not to have a historical plaque. She felt the reason for that was if they decide to sell the place, that is an item they have to handle. Mr. Zolte has the property on Detroit Road, next to Frank Root's house and he moved the barn and built the house there; he took the beams and everything and added on to the house. Ms. Shinko said that she went to Ron Krystowski's house on French Creek Road and saw the barn. Mr. White added that we have talked about that barn; it is beautiful but it is not an Avon barn; it is from another city. We can still nominate it but it is not an Avon landmark. Mr. Richvalsky remembered talking about the barn and stated that buildings were moved all the time back when so now that the barn is in the City limits, it is a landmark, and it has its own story. He asked Ms. Shinko to proceed and get the applications filled out, get photos, and bring them to the next meeting.

Additional Reports and Comments

Mr. Gault stated that, with the Mayor's support, the French Creek Foundation has been investigating ideas for a water feature on the corner of Rt. 83 and Detroit Road. The Veterans' Memorial is already there and you do not want to show any disrespect and take away from the Memorial, so it is very important to be cognizant of that. So we already have the Veterans Memorial arc and we already have the landscaping. All we would really need is some sort of a feature that would be like a backdrop to the Memorial and it would draw more attention to it. Mr. Gault said that the City is in support of paying to have drawings done. Nothing is really concretely happening at this point, other than that he has talked to people who have been involved in doing this. He said he just wanted to share this tonight. Mr. Richvalsky said that getting a professional to do studies or a design is definitely what Mr. Gault wants to do; that is the first step. He said that he could make some calls and give Mr. Gault some referrals and that he could update the LPC at the next meeting.

Mr. Richvalsky congratulated Ms. Shinko on being awarded the Mayor's volunteer service award, and he noted that Mr. Gault was the previous recipient of the award.

Date of Next Meeting

Mr. Richvalsky stated that the next meeting of the Landmarks Preservation Commission would be held on Wednesday, October, 12, 2016, at 7:00 P.M. in the Caucus Room of Avon City Hall.

Adjourn

A motion was made by Mr. Gault and seconded by Mr. White to adjourn the meeting and the vote was all ayes.

Transcribed by Gail Hayden, Assistant Clerk of Council

