

APPROVED

**VILLAGE OF DOWNERS GROVE  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION AND DESIGN REVIEW BOARD  
MINUTES OF June 22, 2022 7:00 P.M.**

Chairwoman Gassen called the June 22, 2022 of the Historic Preservation and Design Review Board to order at 7:01 p.m. and requested a roll call:

**1. ROLL CALL**

**PRESENT:** Chairwoman Gassen, Mr. Styczynski, Mr. Lerner, Ms. Chalberg, Mr. Renner, Ms. Kolev, Mr. Reimer

**ABSENT:** None

**STAFF:** Flora Leon, Senior Planner

**VISITORS:** Chuck Holtzen

**2. APPROVAL OF MARCH 17, 2022 MEETING MINUTES**

Chairwoman Gassen asked the minutes reflect a change noting that 30 “properties” were landmarked instead of “homes.”

**Motion by Mr. Reimer, second by Mr. Renner to approve the minutes of the March 17, 2022 meeting. Roll call:**

**AYE: Renner, Reimer, Styczynski, Lerner, Chalberg, Kolev, Gassen**

**NAY: None**

**ABSTAIN: None**

**Motion passed.**

**3. PUBLIC HEARING: None**

**4. OLD BUSINESS - None**

**5. NEW BUSINESS – An overview of the Historic Home Program (HHP)**

Ms. Flora Leon, Senior Planner, introduced Chuck Holtzen and noted that Chuck would be providing an overview of the Historic Home Program.

Chairwoman Gassen reminded the board that as part of the requirements to maintain Certified Local Government Status (CLG) the board was required to meet quarterly. With no petitions on the agenda, this presentation is an opportunity to learn more about this program while meeting these requirements.

Ms. Holtzen, noted that Chairwoman Gassen asked her to put this presentation together. She thanked Sydney Musselman, who helped her with presentation. She then proceeded to explain that the HHP program was a 50/50 partnership between the Downers Grove Museum and the Downers Grove Historical Society. She noted that this program replaced the Centennial Home Program on December 15, 2015.

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Ms. Holtzen proceeded to explain how the centennial folders were organized and maintained for future research purposes. She noted that the folders included research that was not only limited to the homes, but also to the people who lived in each home. On this note, Ms. Holtzen provided ownership information related to the George H. Bundy House and the Alexander Cameron House.

Ms. Holtzen then explained the difference between the Historic Home Program (HHP) versus the Village of Downers Grove Landmark Designation. While both programs have similar standards for designation, the homeowners are not constrained from making changes to the structure on the inside or outside with the HHP. Ms. Holtzen highlighted a map on HHP homes in the Village.

Ms. Holtzen spoke in detail about the Potter Manufacturing building and noted that the existing Village Hall was likely built around the original Potter Manufacturing building. Ms. Holtzen then provided a detailed explanation of the research efforts associated with the Charles "Coffee" & Selma Johnson House, the William & Lucille Carpenter House, the Austin Pye House, and the Robert & Bessie Bateman House.

Ms. Holtzen concluded her presentation by emphasizing the importance of social history. She explained that this ability to bridge the past to the present allowed us to build a connection in a community and among neighbors.

Mr. Lerner asked if the files were digitized. Ms. Holtzen explained that the most recent homes are partially digitized.

Chairwoman Gassen noted that most of the HHP homes were digitized. The Centennial Homes Program has older files that have not completely been digitized. As such, this task is currently being undertaken.

Mr. Lerner noted that it would be great to make the files available online for people who want to research properties. Mr. Lerner explained that he occasionally makes calls to local museums when he is researching a property. So he explained its nice to have these files available for web-type research and as a backup copy. Chairwoman Gassen agreed and stated that the first place most people contact is the museum when they want to research their own homes.

Ms. Holtzen added that most people think museums have all of the history related to their homes. However, she noted that museums normally only have the information if a previous homeowner donated these documents.

Mr. Lerner asked Ms. Holtzen if when she speaks to people who want to preserve history but they don't want to landmark what is the thinking there? Ms. Holtzen explained that during initial research people are hesitant about taking part in the Landmarking Program because they do not want to place any future limitations on their home. She added that a lot of people are still very confused as to which program means what. Mr. Lerner noted that people are wary of having restrictions on their property.

Ms. Holtzen added that people might not want to be told by the Village what improvements they can and cannot make to their property. She added that she often explains to people that most work to any structure requires a permit.

Ms. Holtzen added that there is also supposed to be updated research to be released by Landmark Illinois on how landmarking affects property values.

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Ms. Holtzen thanked the board for their time. Chairwoman Gassen thanked Ms. Holtzen and Ms. Musselman for putting together the presentation last minute and for all of the research that was done. Ms. Holtzen noted that she should have been a researched and shared how much she enjoyed completing research and associated genealogy.

**6. PUBLIC COMMENT:** Chairwoman Gassen opened the meeting for public comment. Hearing none, she asked if there were any other updates from staff.

Ms. Leon, thanked Ms. Holtzen for the presentation. She noted that with several landmarking petitions the Village does lean heavily on the Downers Grove Historical Museum and the Downers Grove Historical Society for research specifically for the social history. She explained that this research is an important part in the staff reports.

Ms. Leon shared that a petition was currently under review for a Certificate of Design Appropriateness (CODA). This petition would likely appear in front of the board next month. She reassured the board she would reach out via email to confirm the meeting date.

## **7. ADJOURNMENT**

Chairwoman Gassen thanked staff for the update. She called for a motion to adjourn.

**Ms. Chalberg moved, seconded by Mr. Reimer to adjourn the meeting at 7:47 p.m.  
Motion carried unanimously.**

/s/ \_\_\_\_\_ Village Staff  
(As transcribed by MP-3 audio)