

"A Historic Past"



"A Bright Future"

CITY OF DELAWARE CITY

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**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF
THE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
CITY OF DELAWARE CITY
Tuesday, October 3, 2023 at 7:00p.m.
Delaware City Community Center – Surfboard Room
250 Fifth Street**

CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner Dilliplane called the regular meeting of the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) to order at 7:00p.m. Commissioners McPherson, Keifer, Wood, Lyons, and Bricker-Jenkins were also in attendance. City Manager Hill, Mayor Johnson, and Dan Saunders (the applicant) were also present.

ACTION UPON MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Commissioner McPherson made a motion to accept the August 2, 2023 minutes. This was seconded by Commissioner Wood. A vote was taken, and all were in favor. *The motion passed.*

******Since there was no quorum at the September 5, 2023 meeting, there were no minutes to approve.

NEW BUSINESS

222 Clinton Street (Dan Saunders) – Build a Tower to Hold an Historical Bell and Cross on the Church Lawn. (Formerly the Episcopal Church).

Mr. Saunders began the discussion. The bell and steeple were taken down in the 1990's due to structural concerns – especially during high winds. The bell has been down almost 30 years. The

Episcopal Church is now closed, but another church uses the building. The Episcopal Diocese of Delaware (owners of the church building) are looking to use or repurpose the bell. One plan is to put a tower on the church property to hold the bell. Another option under consideration is to place the bell at the Episcopal Church Camp – near Rehoboth Beach. The diocese will make the final decision.

The meeting tonight is for the approval of the “concept only.” If the HPC approves the “concept,” Mr. Saunders will come back in the future with detailed plans.

Comments/Questions from Commissioner Lyons: Is this the bell that has always been with the church? Mr. Saunders said yes, it has been with the church since the 1800’s. Commissioner Dilliplane said she feels the bell should stay with the church, because of their long history together. Commissioners Lyons and Bricker-Jenkins agreed.

Comments/Questions from Commissioner Dilliplane: Why can the bell not ring? Mr. Saunders said that they could have the bell ring, but they are concerned about nuisance (especially kids trying to ring it at off hours).

Comments/Questions from Commissioner Bricker-Jenkins: Isn’t another reason this church is historical, because it has a “twin” somewhere? Mr. Saunders said that it was “modeled” after the “Floating Church” in Philadelphia.

Comments/Questions from Commissioner Keifer: She said that the proposed plans “look good.” It is always nice to have another historical structure in town, and the plans look very appropriate for the designated space on the church property.

Comments/Questions from Commissioner Woods: Will there be a plaque placed at the proposed bell structure? Mr. Saunders said yes.

Comments/Questions from Commissioner McPherson: Is the zoning correct? It is designated R-1. Mr. Saunders said yes, that is correct. The churches in the area are “grand-fathered in” to be permissible in the R-1 district.

Commissioner Bricker-Jenkins made a motion to approve the “concept” of the mounting of the historic bell and cross (a bell/cross tower) as proposed by Mr. Saunders on church property. This was seconded by Commissioner Keifer. A vote was taken, and all were in favor. *The motion passed.*

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner McPherson made a motion to adjourn at 7:19p.m. This was seconded by Commissioner Wood. A vote was taken, and all were in favor. *The motion passed.*

Respectively submitted,

Tina Pincus

City Secretary