

ILLINOIS HISTORIC SITES ADVISORY COUNCIL

Illinois State Historic Preservation Office -- Department of Natural Resources
WebEx Virtual Meeting

<https://www2.illinois.gov/dnrhistoric/Preserve/pages/illinois-historic-sites-advisory-council.aspx>

October 29, 2021

Presiding: Meg Kindelin, Chair

Council Members Present:

Curtis Mann	Erica Ruggiero
Elizabeth Blasius	Jenny Barker-Devine
Erin Benson	Lisa Napoles
Christopher Stratton	Elizabeth Blasius
Norm Moline	Michael Smith
Kayeleigh Sharp	Kelly Purvis

Non-Voting Council Members Present: Christina Shutt, Cinnamon Catlin-Legutko

Staff Members Present:

Andrew Heckenkamp	Carey Mayer
Amy Hathaway	Rita Baker
Carol Dyson	Anna Margaret Barris

Guests:

Pamela Lange	John Cramer
Sharon Winterhalter	Sanford Garner
Karen Bode Baxter	Cheryl Johnson
Lisa DiChiera	John Reynolds
Mary Lu Seidel	Rachel Leibowitz
Wendy Muhammad	Lisa R. Muhammad
Carrie Andrews	Beth Jacob
Teri Payton	John Reynolds
Andraya Yousfi	Carol Mc Gee
Carlos Campos	Elsa Haarstad
Courtney Hanson	Dennis Hyland
Quinn Adamowski	Elizabeth Mllnarik
Adella B.	Lisa DiChiera
Chris Usler	Christina Shutt
Cesar	Nate Lielasus
Cinnamon Caitlin-Legutko	Terry Sharp
Sofia Mattesini	Adam Derosé
Qudisah Muhammad	Jose Espejo
Aleatha Wilson	Jamil Muhammad
Vonceal Franklin	Kevin Hall

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 10:02 A.M. Roll was taken. Fye and Hein were absent.

CHAIR REPORT

Chair Kindelin welcomed everyone to the council meeting and went over the procedures for the day.

STAFF REPORT

Mayer gave the staff report of the SHPO. Heckenkamp thanked outgoing members.

READING OF THE MINUTES

The minutes were approved, with a motion made by Mann and seconded by Napoles. Kindelin reminded the council to contact National Register staff if they were approached by anyone who was trying to influence their vote, and to not let future plans influence their evaluation of properties but to consider them on their own merits as they are today.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

LISTINGS

Col. George Paddock House (Princeton)

Pamela Lang gave the presentation. Moline requested that the word faith be changed to denomination. Purvis complemented the property's restoration. Kindelin thanked Lange for including pictures of the property before it was restored.

Staff opinion (Hathaway) was positive.

Motion to recommend was made by Purvis and seconded by Barker-Devine.

Motion carried.

Altgeld Gardens – Philip Murray Homes HD (Chicago)

Before the presentation began, Chair Kindelin mentioned for the record that her office has professional ties to the nomination and that she will be logging off for the presentation and vote and turned the proceedings over to Vice Chair Ruggiero. John Cramer gave the presentation. Several council members complimented the nomination. Stratton questioned the end date of 1994 for the period of significance for Hazel Johnson whose career in Environmental Justice extended well past that date and asked whether the end date should go until she stopped being actively involved with the movement. Cramer responded that some of the team members [researchers and authors of the nomination] were in favor of that but they were following the direction they received from the SHPO. Ruggiero wanted more information on Elizabeth Wood [the first Executive Director of the Chicago Housing Authority] who had a profound impact on these early CHA developments. She advocated for high quality, racially integrated housing that was equally distributed throughout the city, and unfortunately her drive for that was the reason she was fired from the CHA. Ruggiero also asked whether there was any research to determine if Beverly Lorraine Green who was an architect with CHA at the time. She was the first African American woman in the country to become a licensed architect. Cramer replied that he would discuss that with his team. Moline requested that the date of the opening of the St. Lawrence Seaway was 1959, not 1953. Barker-Devine supported Stratton's recommendation to reconsider the period of significance as it would tell a fuller story of the site. There was a question from the public by the Hand Club for Kids regarding the letter they sent to the SHPO. Heckenkamp said he would address that in his staff comments.

The following spoke in favor of the nomination:

Cheryl Johnson (People for Community Recovery / Hazel Johnson's daughter)
Mary Lu Seidel, Preservation Chicago
Lisa DiChiera, Landmarks
Kevin Hall (CHA)

Staff opinion (Heckenkamp) was positive. Heckenkamp explained that the SHPO determined the complex eligible in 1993 and the Keeper of the National Register reaffirmed that determination in 1994. The additional criteria in the nomination [B & C] were included in a Memorandum of Understanding in 2018 that outlined specifically how the nomination had to be written. National Register staff were not involved in the MOU and have not been able to work directly with the consultants on the nomination. Since the nomination has raised some questions and National Register staff has seen some technical issues with the document, Heckenkamp said that he will ask the Review & Compliance staff if he and Hathaway can work with the consultants on the nomination before it goes to the National Park Service. Heckenkamp said that the Commission on Chicago Landmarks sent a letter of support and the property owner Hand Club for Kids sent a letter of objection.

Motion to recommend was made by Moline and seconded by Mann. Motion carried.

Ramova Theater (Chicago)

Chair Kindelin logged back into the meeting before the presentation began. Shannon Winterhalter gave the presentation. Blasius asked for more information regarding the use of the property's commercial block. Winterhalter agreed to look into it. Kindelin noticed that the lobby space was also atmospheric and asked whether Winterhalter came across any other atmospheric lobbies in her research. Winterhalter could not say for certain but believed in general that atmospheric elements extended into the lobbies. Moline recommended that in the Bridgeport community history, the I & M Canal discussion be amended to say that much of the canal is buried under the Stevenson Expressway, and the date for its completion is 1964. Moline also recommended to include a brief statement that how Bridgeport today has become so connected with the expanding Chinatown. John Reynolds of Baum Revision spoke in favor of the nomination.

Staff opinion (Hathaway) was positive. Motion to recommend was made by Stratton and seconded by Purvis. Motion carried.

Middletown Historic District Boundary Increase 2 (Alton)

Karen Bode Baxter gave the presentation. There were no questions. Kindelin complimented the nomination.

Staff opinion (Heckenkamp) was positive. Motion to recommend was made by Mann and seconded by Purvis. Motion carried.

The Honorable Elijah Muhammad House (Chicago)

Sanford Garner gave the presentation. Ruggiero asked Hathaway or Heckenkamp to comment on the fact that the property is already listed as part of the Hyde Park-Kenwood Historic District and about not double-counting properties in the National Register. Heckenkamp explained that the property can be nominated on its merits.

but we have to indicate on the form that its already been counted. Ruggiero believed that the summary in Section 7, narrative description was more relevant to Section 8 and the nomination should be revised accordingly; Garner could look at the individual properties nominated today for guidance. Ruggiero pointed out that the site was listed as contributing but there was no description of it in the nomination. Heckenkamp offered to work with Garner on that. Stratton asked if the nomination could include mention of the property's original owner, William French Burrows, who was CEO of the company that became Libby Foods. Stratton also asked if Garner knew how long the property sat vacant before Elijah Muhammad acquired it. Garner was unsure but estimated about 15 – 20 years, which would be about the same amount of time it sat vacant before Wendy Muhammad [current owner] acquired it. Shutt agreed with Stratton that information about the original owner be included and asked whether the box for Criterion Consideration A for religious properties be checked. Garner said that the house was not used for religious purposes. Kindelin mentioned that the owner noted in the WebEx Chat bar that the property owner confirmed that no religious meetings were held on the property and it is not owned by a religious institution.

Staff opinion (Heckenkamp) was positive. Mary Lu Seidel and Wendy Muhammad spoke in favor of the nomination.

Motion to recommend was made by Mann and seconded by Stratton.

Heckenkamp introduced the ex-officio members of the council, Christina Shutt, Executive Director of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Cinnamon Catlin-Legutko, Director of the Illinois State Museum.

The meeting adjourned at 12:36 P.M. NEXT MEETING: February 25th.