

Oak Park Historic Preservation Commission
ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW COMMITTEE
July 24, 2019 Meeting Minutes
Oak Park Village Hall, Room 110 – 7:30 pm

A. ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Christopher Payne, Sandra Carr, and Aleksandra Tadic
ABSENT: Lou Garapolo and Noel Weidner
STAFF: Susie Trexler, Historic Preservation Urban Planner

B. MINUTES

Motion by Carr to approve minutes of the June 26, 2019. Second by Tadic. Motion approved 3-0.
AYE: Carr, Tadic, Chair Payne
NAY: None

C. 615 N Marion St (Brennan and Andrea Hitpas): Advisory Review for new rear deck at house on corner property (Frank Lloyd Wright-Prairie School of Architecture Historic District).

Chair Payne said that the applicant removed their application as they are making changes. The Committee members noted that they did not have concerns with the design as submitted. They agreed that the deck will be minimally visible.

D. 931 Chicago Ave (Frank Lloyd Wright Trust): Provide recommendations for project to remove additions on the east and south sides of the house (Frank Lloyd Wright-Prairie School of Architecture Historic District).

Celeste Adams, Bob Miller, and Karen Sweeney, all of the Frank Lloyd Wright Trust, were present.

The Committee asked if there were any questions. Ms. Sweeney said the Trust studied options that involved retaining everything, but the education center did not meet the Trust's goals in these scenarios.

Chair Payne said the Historic Preservation Commission has occasionally approved projects to restore a building to a particular date but more information is required. Ms. Sweeney said she assumed they would find a lot of information during demolition. Chair Payne recommended that the Trust prepare a proposal that captures this and has clear steps that will be followed. Ms. Sweeney said that if they find there was not original a door on the east elevation, they will not add one. Chair Payne later elaborated, explaining that the proposal can be in the form of a

site plan or narrative but should include clear steps. For example: action, investigation, and what will be done depending on what information is or isn't found.

Chair Payne said restoring to the period of significance is recommended and allowing restoration to an earlier date is up to the Commission. Committee member Carr said there would be a better argument to restore the house to the year Anna Lloyd Wright sold it. Chair Payne agreed and said that it would make more sense to restore the house to 1909 as this is the year to which the Home & Studio was restored. He noted that restoring one house to ca. 1865 is incongruous and would be a fabrication. Ms. Sweeney said that restoring to 1909 would also not remove much of the east-west width of the building.

Chair Payne said that members of the Commission had two concerns: first, that it is important what additions were there when Frank Lloyd Wright was there, and second, that there may be archaeological concerns, if Frank Lloyd Wright was involved in any of the construction. Chair Payne noted that Wright's involvement is unknown but a newspaper article indicated that the house was renovated before Anna Lloyd Wright moved in. He asked if any additional items were found that would provide more information about the additions. Ms. Sweeney said the biggest find was the drawings of the addition that wasn't built (in the Committee's packet), which were misfiled with the Heurtley House materials. Chair Payne noted that there are also not drawings from the Frank Lloyd Wright Home & Studio. Ms. Sweeney agreed and said it was probably built organically.

The Committee explained the next steps, stating that the Trust may amend the application and resubmit it to the Commission or they may request a hearing on the original application by July 27. Chair Payne said if the Trust requests a hearing, they may still complete the application (submit supplementary materials). He noted that the Commission may still not approve but it would be for a different reason, such as concern about the restoration date.

E. Other Business

None

F. Adjourn

Motion by Carr to adjourn. Second by Tadic.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM.

Minutes prepared by Susie Trexler, Historic Preservation Urban Planner.