JOPLIN | HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

**MINUTES**
**REGULAR SESSION**
**JUNE 18, 2024**

The Historic Preservation Commission of the City of Joplin met on Tuesday, June 18, 2024, at 5:00 p.m. in the 5th floor study at Joplin City Hall at 602 South Main Street, Joplin, Missouri.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Ms. Jill Halbach, Ms. Lori Haun, Dr. William Mountz, Ms. Kate DeTar, Mr. Greg Huff, Mr. Robert Brueckner and Mr. Jeff Millard.

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT: Dr. William Fischer, and Ms. Emily Frankoski.

CITY STAFF PRESENT: Thomas Walters and Vicky Copeland represented the City of Joplin.

**Items 1. & 2. Meeting Called to Order and Roll Call**

Ms. Jill Halbach opened the meeting at 5:00 p.m. and Vicky Copeland called the roll.

**MR. ROBERT BRUECKNER MOVED, SECONDED BY DR. WILLIAM MOUNTZ TO EXCUSE DR. WILLIAM FISCHER AND MS. EMILY FRANKOSKI. MS. JILL HALBACH, MS. LORI HAUN, MR. GREG HUFF, MR. ROBERT BRUECKNER, DR. WILLIAM MOUNTZ, MS. KATE DETAR AND JEFF MILLARD VOTING "AYE". MOTION CARRIED. (7 IN FAVOR, 2 ABSENT).**

**Item 3. Approval of Minutes**

**DR. WILLIAM MOUNTZ MOVED, SECONDED BY MR. ROBERT BRUECKNER TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FOR THE MAY 21, 2024, HPC MEETING. MS. JILL HALBACH, MS. LORI HAUN, DR. WILLIAM MOUNTZ, MS. KATE DETAR, MR. GREG HUFF, MR. ROBERT BRUECKNER AND JEFF MILLARD VOTING "AYE". MOTION CARRIED. (7 IN FAVOR, 2 ABSENT).**

**Item 4. Budget**

Mr. Thomas Walters presented the budget with no changes or expenditures to reflect. There were no questions from the Commission.

**Item 5. Public Hearings**

There were none.

**Item 6. Discussion Items**

**a.** Missouri Mainstreet Conference

Ms. Lori Haun and Dr. William Mountz voiced interest in the Missouri Mainstreet Conference. Ms. Jill Halbach requested the scheduled dates of camp training. Mr. Tom Walters stated he would send out the camp training schedule by email. Ms. Jill Halbach stated that if neither date would work for the Commissioners, then they needed to seek out a webinar.

b. HPC Business for the Year-Preservation Training/Workshops

Mr. Thomas Walters is waiting to hear back from Elizabeth Ross.

c. Downtown Now-Neon Signs Presentation

Mr. Thomas Walters visited Hunter Millard Architects. Mr. Walters stated he believed he would be able to present the Neon Code. Mr. Walters stated he would briefly discuss the process and how to get signage approved. Ms. Haun requested samples and flyers to be provided. Mr. Walters stated he had a draft.

**d.** Memorial Hall

Ms. Halbach stated she had asked for this item to be placed on the agenda for discussion. There had been an informal decision made by the Joplin City Council and she wanted to discuss the process. She stated that she personally had citizens reach out to her to talk about starting a petition. Ms. Halbach wanted to clarify their role as citizens vs. commissioners. Mr. Thomas Walters stated they were allowed to take whatever position they would like. Ms. Halbach stated it was her understanding as it stood right now the vote, they came to was 8-1 to give the City Staff the directive to create an ordinance for the demolition of City Hall. Her question was since Memorial

Hall was a local landmark they need a Certificate of Appropriateness from this Commission. Why would they put that out before they came to the Commission. Mr. Thomas Walters stated they were potentially not aware as there are new members of Council. Ms. Halbach stated that in her opinion they had not made every reasonable effort. Ms. Halbach said that personally she would like to do everything that can be done. Mr. Walters stated that a Certificate of Appropriateness does not go before Planning and Zoning. Mr. Walters said the Council had not decided the fate of Memorial Hall they have given direction to City Staff to do due diligence in one direction. Ms. Halbach asked if the Commission could deny the Certificate of Appropriateness and the City could appeal and then it would go to Council and then they would make a decision. Discussion resumed on petitions and Mr. Walters referred Ms. Halbach to the City Clerk about the procedural rules and make sure they are correctly understood. Ms. Halbach had been advising citizens to reach out to their City Council representative. Ms. Halbach said Memorial Hall is a stand alone in the National Registry of Historic Places. That happened in 2021. Before that it became a local landmark. Because it was a local landmark then the Commission should at least get a say. Mr. Thomas Walters stated that as a Commission they have limited jurisdiction on any alteration including demolition. Ms. Halbach stated she thought an attempt should be made to sell Memorial Hall. Mr. Thomas Walters stated the Memorial Hall presentation was available on the website. Ms. Halbach said the only option the City Council were exploring presently was demolition. Dr. William Mountz asked if the Commission had a Council liaison. Mr. Walters stated at present he did not believe they had a Council liaison. It was usually done as a voluntary action by the Council member.

Ms. Michelle McCamish, 837 New Hampshire Ave, spoke to the Commission about Memorial Hall. She stated Memorial Hall was much more than a building, even though it was a historical building, it is a memorial in honor of all our military and veterans. She said it should be kept for that. She stated that many veterans are upset with the decision to demolish.

**Item 7. Old Business**

**Item 8. New Business**

Mr. Walters informed the Commission that Ms. Vicky Copeland was leaving the Planning and Zoning Department and would be transferring to the City Prosecutor's Office.

**Item 9. Announcements**

Mr. Huff gave an update on the Olivia apartments.

**MR. ROBERT BRUECKNER MOVED, SECONDED BY MR. GREG HUFF TO ADJOURN. MS. JILL HALBACH, MS. LORI HAUN, MR. GREG HUFF, MR. ROBERT BRUECKNER, DR. WILLIAM MOUNTZ, MS. KATE DETAR AND JEFF MILLARD VOTING "AYE". MOTION CARRIED. (7 IN FAVOR, 2 ABSENT).**

Approved _____
Jill Halbach, Chairperson

Approved _____
Recording Secretary