

Oak Park Historic Preservation Commission
ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW COMMITTEE
July 28, 2022 Meeting Minutes
Remote Participation Meeting, 7:30 pm

A. ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Chair Noel Weidner and Andrew Elders
ABSENT: Lou Garapolo
STAFF: Mike Bruce, Zoning Administrator

B. AGENDA

Motion by Elders to approve the agenda. Second by Weidner. Motion approved 2-0.

AYE: Elders and Weidner
NAY: None

C. MINUTES

Motion by Elders to approve minutes of the June 23, 2022. Second by Elders. Motion approved 2-0.

AYE: Elders and Weidner
NAY: None

**D. Advisory Review: 321 S Ridgeland Ave (Kimberly Jackewicz & Jonathan Campbell):
Advisory Review for construction of new garage (Ridgeland-Oak Park Historic District).**

Chair Weidner introduced the project.

Brian Crothers, Steele and Lober and Kimberly Jackewicz, the homeowner, are present.

Chair Weidner indicated that he visited the site and looked at the existing garage. He says that the garage needs some paint, but it does not appear to be falling down. Committee member Elder says that the garage has a great deal of integrity and the historical siding is still present.

Brian Crothers says that the garage is beyond repair and asks if the Committee members had a chance to review the photos that he sent to Mr. Bruce. Chair Weidner indicates that

he has seen the photos but insisted that the garage appears to be repairable. He indicated that the Applicant has to prove that the garage should be demolished.

Committee member Elders ask what is the purpose of the proposed door facing the house on the new garage. Mr. Crothers indicates it would be used for access to lawn equipment and etc.

Chair Weidner says that the full Commission should weigh-in on whether the existing structure should be torn down. Then we can provide input on the new structure. Chair Weidner apologized for Staff providing inaccurate information on the whether the garage retains its historic character and whether the garage is still structurally sound.

The Commission members had a conversation about the new garage and that the proposed garage should include features like a hip roof, 12-inch eaves, vinyl siding in the profile of the brick siding on the home. In addition, the members would like to see a window up to the same height as the door header.

Chair Weidner says that the demolition of the garage shall go before the full Commission and that the Applicant may want to revise the proposed garage with input received earlier.

E. Advisory Review: 210 Wesley Ave (Peter & Veronica Kolos): Advisory Review for construction of new garage (Ridgeland-Oak Park Historic District).

Chair Weidner introduced the project.

Dave Krecek, Blue Sky Builders and Peter & Veronica Kolos, the homeowners, are present.

Mr. Krecek says that the prior garage was demolished via a demo permit. He says that the new garage will mimic features of the house. The garage will have a second-floor space to use for storage in the near future and maybe an office at a later time. Mr. Krecek talks about the pitch of the proposed garage vs the new garage, and says that the garage roof will be steep but not as steep as the home.

The Committee members like the longer eaves and steep roof pitch of the proposed garage. A discussion ensued about having any windows match the height of the door header.

F. Discussion: 606 N East Ave (Jessica Paul): Discuss project to increase depth of front porch and expand porch across side addition (Frank Lloyd Wright-Prairie School of Architecture Historic District).

Chair Weidner introduced the project.

Chris Bremer, the architect, and Jessica Paul, the homeowner, are present.

Mr. Bremer says that the proposal will add about three feet of depth to the porch and that the porch will wrap around an existing addition to the south. Mr. Bremer says that the porch will be extended, but it will still match the two adjacent home's setbacks.

Member Elders says that he is not a fan of extending porches toward the street. He says that the adjacent porch has the same details as this porch, but is not convinced whether either porch is original. Mr. Bremer says it is unclear on what the original porch looked like. A discussion about the limestone columns ensued.

The Committee members agree that the porch addition integrates the side addition better and improves the look of the house. Chair Weidner asks if staff found any information regarding the original porch. Staff indicated that no records were found. A discussion ensues about the cluster of columns in the middle, baluster height meeting the building code and snow loads.

The Committee members are fine with the details of the porch proposal.

G. Discussion: 825 N Euclid Ave (Adam and Natalie Shafer): Discuss proposed side addition (Frank Lloyd Wright-Prairie School of Architecture Historic District).

Chair Weidner introduced the project.

Chris Bremer, the architect, and Adam & Natalie Shafer, the homeowners, are present.

Mr. Bremer says that the proposal is an addition to create more space for a home office and etc. He says they looked at adding this addition to the rear, but it does not work due to the layout of the house.

The Committee members says that an addition in the front is not typically something that the Commission would approve as it is against the guidelines. Committee member Elders says that this addition conflicts with the street rhythm and that the addition should be setback. Chair Weidner agrees and says that he would be concerned about setting a precedence with this addition.

H. Discussion: 842-844 N East Ave: Discuss project to enlarge front porch (Frank Lloyd Wright-Prairie School of Architecture Historic District).

Chair Weidner introduced the project.

Oscar Alba, the architect, and the homeowner, Judy Hembling are present.

Chair Weidner says it is nice to see something finally happening to this structure. Chair Weidner says that he is not a fan of the railings. He says that the chimney and the doors are the defining characters of the house. He does not like the fact that the proposed terrace and other features could obscure the defining features. He feels that the Applicant should explore lowering the terrace or eliminating it altogether.

Committee member Elders says that a perspective drawing could be helpful. The drawings should maybe show the proposed railings as white or off white. He says that the water fountain feature changes the stair configuration. A discussion ensued regarding how the fountain changes the current design of the stairs. The Committee members would like for the proposed terrace to be no wider than the bump outs on the house. Oscar Alba, the architect, feels that he received some good feedback and will modify his proposal to get ready for the full commission.

- I. **Discussion: 544 N. Grove Ave (Margaret Anderson):** Discuss project to replace a bay window at the rear of the property with a French door (Frank Lloyd Wright-Prairie School of Architecture Historic District).

Chair Weidner introduced the project.

Margaret Anderson, the homeowner is present. Ms. Anderson discusses her proposal. Indicating that she plans to replace an existing bay window on the rear of the home with French doors.

The Committee members asks Ms. Anderson to look into getting an architect to do the drawings as the drawings are difficult to follow. Ms. Anderson discusses the need for an exit from grade. She also found old sanborn maps showing that the home was not originally designed with a bay window at the rear.

Ms. Anderson was informed that the proposal needs to be reviewed by the full commission.

- J. **Other Business**

None

- K. **Adjourn**

Motion by Elders to adjourn. Second by Chair Weidner. Motion approved 2-0.

AYE: Elders and Weidner

NAY: None

Meeting adjourned at 8:45PM.

Minutes prepared by Mike Bruce, Zoning Administrator.