

Courthouse Preservation Advisory Commission Unofficial Minutes
October 12, 2011
Indiana Government Conference Center
Conference Room 2
302 West Washington Street
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

Commission members present: Julie Berry, Indiana Association of County Commissioners member, acting chairperson; Dr. James Glass, Director, Indiana Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology; Fritz Herget, professional engineer member and Kevin Woodward, Indiana Association of Counties member.

Visitors/Staff members: Frank Hurdis, Indiana Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology; Eric Wyndham, DNR Attorney; and Susan Judy, DHPA.

Call to Order:

Acting Chairperson Julie Berry convened the unofficial meeting at 1:47 P.M. EDT.

A. *Welcome, Opening Comments, and approval of the April 20, 2011 minutes:*

Julie Berry welcomed everyone and noted that the minutes of the August 10, 2011 Commission meeting could not be acted upon because of a lack of a quorum. She asked if there were any corrections or comments and there were none so the minutes will stand as they are until they are approved at the next meeting on January 4, 2012. The minutes for the August 10 meeting of the Commission would also be approved on January 4.

B. *Distribution and Use of Printed Copies of Commission's Report to General Assembly and Executive Summary Brochures*

Jim Glass asked if everyone had received a copy of the commission report 5 copies of the executive summary, and everyone present indicated they had. Glass reported that many of the initial run of executive summary were not acceptable due to a printing issue and were re-printed at no extra cost.

All but 15-20 copies of the report have been sent to members of the Courthouse Commission, Supreme Court Law Library, the Indiana State Library, and the Indiana State Archives. Governor Daniels was given a copy by Director Carter. Julie Berry and Kevin Woodward will distribute copies to all of the Boards of County Commissioners in the state. The Indiana Association of County Commissioners paid for a separate group of about 120 copies of the report. Ms. Berry said she sent one to the Auditor of Marion County. Glass added that he received 200 copies of the brochures for the \$1500 allotment for the project. Copies of the report will also be given to selected legislators and the heads of state agencies mentioned in the recommendations.

C. Presentation of Findings and Recommendations to Natural Resources Legislative Study Committee on October 27, Meetings with Legislative Sponsors of Public Law 85-2008, Legislative Discussion

As reported by Jim Glass, Chief Justice Shepard suggested a meeting with the legislators, who originally sponsored the bill and with the Natural Resources Study Committee. The Commission was on the agenda to make a presentation of its findings and recommendations to the Natural Resources Study Committee at Fort Harrison State Park Inn on October 27. At that meeting it was anticipated that Julie Berry or Kevin Woodward would present the findings of the report on the need for rehabilitation of historic courthouses and the needs identified by county commissioners and county judges. Judge Steve Cox would present the recommendations dealing with the use of local income tax revenues by counties for rehabilitation of historic courthouses. Through contact with Chris Smith, Legislative Director for DNR, a meeting had been also scheduled at Fort Harrison on October 27 with Senator Jim Merritt and possibly Rep. Eric Koch, the co-authors of S.B. 176, which established the Commission.

D. Indiana Judicial Conference Presentation on Commission's Report, Recommendations, September 22, 2011

Dr Glass stated that he and Judge Cox attended. About 50- 60 judges attended. Glass and Cox had some questions from the audience after the meeting and the audience seemed very supportive.

E. Possible Presentation of Findings and Recommendations at Indiana Association of County Commissioners, November 29-December 1, Indianapolis

Julie Berry noted that the Indiana Association of County Commissioners meeting will be held on November 29-December 1, in Indianapolis. The Commissioners paid \$1500 for approximately 120 reports for each board of county commissioners. She and Kevin Woodward were planning to hand-out the reports to county commissioners at the November 29-December 1 Association of County Commissioners meeting in Indianapolis. Any extra copies would be handed out at future events.

Berry noted that the Indiana Association of County Commissioners' lobbyists for the General Assembly were Joe Loftus and Heda Masick of Barnes and Thornburg.

F. Technical Assistance Committee

Fritz Herget had nothing to report at this time. Julie Berry reported that the bell tower has been reconstructed on the courthouse in Randolph County.

G. Education/Communications Committee

Diana Hawes was not available to report.

H. Report on Commission website

Frank Hurdis reported that the Courthouse website has up-to-date agendas up to the August meeting. The meeting minutes for August and October will be posted after the January, 2012 meeting when all are approved. He also reported that the County Courthouse Assessment Report is on the website now for all to view.

I. Summary

Jim Glass stated that there was a press release and an article in the Indianapolis Star newspaper about the Courthouse assessment report.

Acting Chairperson Julie Berry reiterated the agenda topics starting with the Natural Resources Study Committee meeting at Fort Harrison on October 27, 2011. She stated she wants to make sure the meeting is attended by Courthouse Commission representatives. Jim Glass added that the meeting will be held at the Inn at Fort Harrison. Berry also commented about the September Indiana Judicial Conference and the Commissioners Conference meeting.

The availability of Chief Justice Shepard and Marsh Davis for the future meetings should be ascertained.

J. Next meeting:

The next Courthouse Preservation Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for **January 4, 2011** at 1:30 PM, EDT in Conference Room 1, located in the Indiana Government Center South.

Commission Meetings for 2012 are confirmed. All meetings will be at 1:30 p.m.

K. Adjournment

Acting Chairperson Berry adjourned the unofficial meeting at 2:12 P.M. EDT.