

June 15, 2021
City Council Meeting
Comments and Position Statements

I2-Approve meeting minutes of June 1, 2021

COMMENT

Marilyn Schweitzer

Please honor my request that the draft minutes meeting of June 1, 2021 be corrected to reflect that 32 S Sleight St is located in the Historic District. This was an important point that Ms Gleason raised in addition to the upkeep in general of Naperville properties. The historic nature of the property was brought up several times in the discussion including recent demolition of historic homes within the district. Historic homes in Naperville are and can be governed by different ordinances and strategies than homes in general. To quote the city's webpage about the Historic District: "These buildings, structures, and sites represent significant examples of local architecture and are among the city's most important cultural and historical heritage." There are only about 300 principal structures in the historical district - a mere fraction of Naperville's approximate 60,000 properties. When surveyed in 2007, only 44% (138) were rated significant or potentially significant. There were only 21 Gabled Ell houses. 32 S. Sleight is one of only three rated to be potentially significant. None were found to be rated any higher. 32 S. Sleight was chosen as the representative Gabled Ell home for the Architectural Resources in the Naperville Historic District Survey Area by Granacki Historic Consultants. It states: "The house at 32 South Sleight Street, built c. 1890, is a notable example of the Gabled Ell vernacular type, with a two-story front gable bay intersected by a two-story south side gabled bay. The house retains its historic wood windows. The generous wraparound porch, although not original, is a historic addition and does not detract from the original structure." At the time of the 2007 survey, the condition of 32 S. Sleight was found to be good. Clearly that is not the case now. And as both Ms Gleason and Councilwoman Taylor point out, neglect of homes in the Historic District has led to their demolition. On April 16, 2019, City Council approved the demolition of 26 N Sleight because it had deteriorated beyond repair. The Chicago Tribune headline regarding this decision read "A 144-year-old house in Naperville's historic district will be torn down. The outcome is 'all of our faults,' councilman says." Yes, up keep is important for all homes, but for historic homes it is vital. And, more can be done through ordinances to prevent "demolition by neglect". For example, Chicago's April 2018 ordinance that defines "demolition by neglect", sets penalties, and delays new construction on the site for 2 to 10 years. See <https://www.map-strategies.com/blog/2019/1/17/new-ordinance-defines-and-sets-penalties-for-demolition-by-neglect>. We can do more than have have done in the past to protect our heritage. Please recognize the historic significance of 32 S Sleight St in the minutes as it was represented.

I4-Appointments of mayoral appointments to various boards and commissions

COMMENT

Melvin Kim

Dear City Council, I am Melvin Kim, the most recent chair of the SECA Commission and I fully support the slate of new commissioners for the SECA put forward by Mayor Chirico. I am grateful for my time on the SECA Commission. Thank you for the opportunity to serve our city on this Commission over the past 6 years with the last two as the Chair. I have learned a great deal about public service and have grown in my appreciation for you all as elected officials. And at the same time, I am looking forward to stepping back and taking a breather. I am able to do this because I am fully confident that both my former fellow commissioners and the newly appointed ones, Judy Broadhead, Vasavi Chakka, and Tom Miers will continue the good work that the Commission does for the city of Naperville. I believe the next iteration of SECA will continue to be responsive to the needs of applicants, accountable to the public, and truthful in its recommendations to you all. Thank you again for the opportunity to serve our community. I look forward to seeing the good work the SECA Commission does in the future. Melvin Kim