



MINUTES
Preservation Commission
Monday, December 12, 2022
City Hall/Civic Center – 5:30 p.m.

1. **Roll Call:** Mr. Rhodes called the meeting to order at 5:34 p.m.

Members Present: Ashby, Rhodes, Brown, Bittle, Norris-Price and Zurlinden

Members Absent: McCreary

Staff Present: Gibson

Guests: None

2. **Approval of Minutes:** None

1. **Public Hearing Case PD 22-01:**

- a) a) Vote to approve or deny the designation of Attucks High School, located at 410 East Main Street, as a Landmark District.

Mr. Rhodes declared Public Hearing PD 22-01 open and for Ms. Gibson to read the legal notice for PD 22-01.

Mr. Rhodes asked Ms. Gibson to read the staff report. Ms. Gibson read part A of the staff report.

Mr. Rhodes asked if the Commissioners had questions for staff.

Mr. Rhodes asked if the entire building including the gymnasium was being considered for designation. Ms. Gibson confirmed that the entire building was considered.

Ms. Brown asked if a historical marker could be considered for where the elementary school used to be.

Mr. Rhodes asked if anyone wished to speak in favor.

Mr. Holder spoke in favor of the High School designation but asked if there was a way to map the district of the designation site to include the elementary school.

Ms. Gibson stated that only the High School is being considered for this meeting but the Commission could consider historical makers for other surrounding places to be formally

recognized in the future.

M. Stalls spoke in favor of the designation of Attucks High School.

Ella Lacey spoke in favor and presented a letter from a student in the “I Can Read” program. (Exhibit A).

Deborah Woods and Milton McDaniel spoke in favor.

Susan Harper also spoke in favor of the designation of Attucks High School.

Mr. Rhodes asked if anyone wished to speak in opposition.

There were none.

Ms. Gibson read Parts B and C of the staff report for PD 22-01, with a recommendation of approval.

Mr. Rhodes declared PD 22-01 closed and asked for a motion on the findings of fact.

Ms. Brown moved that the Commission accept as findings of fact of Parts A, B and C of the staff report for PD 22-01, and seconded by Ms. Norris-Price.

The motion was passed with a unanimous voice vote.

Mr. Zurlinden moved that the Commission recommend approval of designating 410 E. Main St., Attucks High School, for the Carbondale Historic Registry, seconded by Ms. Brown.

Roll Call Vote:

Yes – 6 (Rhodes, Norris-Price, Ashby, Brown, Zurlinden, Bittle)
No- 0

Mr. Lenzini stated that the item will move forward with recommendation for approval of PD 22-01 for the January 10, 2023 City Council meeting.

2. Old Business

a) None

3. New Business

a) None

7. Adjournment:

Mr. Zurlinden moved to adjourn, and was seconded by Ms. Brown, the meeting at 6:40 p.m.

SALEM POOR and CRISPUS ATTUCKS

Black people have always been willing to fight in wars for America, even when they were held as slaves.

Salem Poor had been a slave, but at about 19 years old he was able to buy his own freedom. He saw so many restrictions on his freedom that he was eager to join the military.

He was a part of some 5,000 Black men, free and slave, who served on the side of the “Patriot” Army. Thousands more Black men served on the British side because the British promised to free them. However, these soldiers were abandoned when the British retreated.

Salem Poor became known because he was a brave and fearless warrior. He fired the shot that killed a high-ranking British officer and turned the war so that Americans won the Battle of Bunker Hill.

Crispus Attucks was another Black man that President George Washington was willing to allow to fight for America. Crispus Attucks was so brave that he advanced to become the first soldier to die in that war.

Schools for Black children all over America are often named after Crispus Attucks. Carbondale Illinois is no exception: a school for all grades was first named Attucks High School. Later, a grade school was built next door to the high school and it was named Attucks Grade School. Attucks Park in Northeast Carbondale is also named after Crispus Attucks – the first man to die in battle in the Revolutionary War of 1776!

Of special note, our own Director of the I Can Read program, Mrs. Margaret Nesbitt, is a graduate of Attucks High School and is a member of the alumni group, the Spirit of Attucks, which founded the “I Can Read” program in 1998!