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Edwards,Michelle

CITY CLERK

From: marilyn oehler <mo62456@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 2, 2025 9:07 AM
To: Edwards,Michelle
Subject: EXTERNAL -Preservation Commission

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Help Desk

Dear Mayor Sakbun and Members of the City Council,

We are writing to express our full support of the Historic Preservation Commission for Terre Haute.

We live at 2260 Ohio Boulevard and are past owners of Sycamore Farm at 5001 Poplar and current owners of Cranberry Bog Cottage at 1132 Poplar.

We can say with certainty that the preservation of historic properties in our city is of great importance to many of the general public here.

During our 15 year tenure at Sycamore Farm we did a 250,000.00 rehab of the Red Barn. We were approached many times by concerned citizens on foot and in vehicles, questioning our activities with heavy equipment and a large crew. One individual from the neighboring subdivision was distraught, saying the reason they bought their house was because of the view of the barn. Most assumed the barn was being demolished and were there to express concern and even outrage. We received tremendous positive outpouring from the community when the project was completed - letters, visits, requests for private and group tours. The Red Barn even served as a backdrop for a local government official election campaign while we were there. It was clear that the Red Barn was a point of pride to our citizenry.

The red brick Italianate at 1132 Poplar has had a facade facelift, and is currently home to my needlework shop. The immediate business neighbors have been supportive of new life breathed back into the block. Most of my customers and clients are from out of town, making my shop a destination experience. Hands down the feeling is the same. Visitors all agree that the historic nature of the building make it worth the trip, and leave with a positive feeling about Terre Haute in general.

Time and time again we have turned to the expertise of Indiana Landmarks Western Division director Tommy Kleckner. He has been an invaluable resource. Under his guidance we solved many issues during the barn rehab. His "can do" attitude makes working within guidelines an often seamless process. He is a guiding light, with energy for details, large and small. We feel confident in his leadership.

As a life long resident of Terre Haute, I grew up just outside of Farringtons Grove and attended Fairbanks elementary school all 6 years. Many of my class mates and playmates lived in the remarkably historic homes of Farringtons Grove. My mother always told us that those were the homes of the "carriage trade". Our sledding hill was Seabury Street. We attended taffy pulls at birthday times and bobbed for apples at Halloween parties. The neighborhood was a grand and glorious place. Forgive the nostalgia, but what could have been saved and preserved in that beloved district had Preservation Ordinances been in place.

Please vote yes on the upcoming opportunity for a Preservation Commission for Terre Haute. It's not too late.

Thank you for reading this letter and for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Marilyn Oehler

Curt Oehler