

Landmarks Commission Meeting Minutes

Thursday, April 13, 2017 – 7:00 pm

City Hall, Hall of Fame Room, Lower Level, 381 E. Main Street, Stoughton, WI.

Members Present: Peggy Veregin, Chair; Kimberly Cook; Alan Hedstrom, Vice-Chair; Stephen Mar-Pohl; and Kathleen Tass Johnson

Absent: Greg Pigarelli and Josh Mabie

Staff: Zoning Administrator, Michael Stacey

Guests: Todd Hubing; Greg Jenson; Sid Boersma and Matt Bartlett

1. Call to order. Veregin called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

2. Consider approval of the Landmarks Commission meeting minutes of February 21 and March 9, 2017.

Motion by **Hedstrom** to approve the minutes as presented, 2nd by **Mar-Pohl**. Motion carried 4 – 0.

3. Discuss local landmark mini-grants.

Cook provided a draft application and Veregin provided a draft letter to send to local landmark property owners. The commission discussed formatting of the documents.

Motion by **Mar-Pohl** to approve the application and letter with future formatting and edits, 2nd by **Cook**. Motion approved 4 – 0.

4. Discuss preservation award nominations.

Veregin plans to email the nomination form to Tass-Johnson who will discuss with the Olde House Group.

5. Discussion/status of proposed changes to city ordinances regarding demolition of a building in a historic district.

Veregin stated the plan is to change final review authority from the Planning Commission to the Common Council for projects within the Downtown Design Overlay District. Veregin stated that after reviewing Attorney Dregne's comments, she went to the March 28th Council meeting to explain the intent of the proposed ordinance changes. The Common Council requested the Landmarks Commission work with Attorney Matt Dregne to amend the ordinances.

Attorney Dregne is currently on vacation and will contact the Landmarks Commission to set a meeting date. Stacey will remind Attorney Dregne next week.

6. Discuss status of the 1892 High School.

Veregin stated the Coalition has a community survey on their Facebook page which also has a link to a video of the building.

Stoughton Newspapers had a recent article about the 1892 High School.

A high school student has contacted Veregin to do a story about the 1892 High School.

One more focus group meeting is coming up soon.

Veregin stated there is a senior capstone project in the works at UW – Madison for the 1892 High School.

7. Discuss status of the Milfab/Highway Trailer/Power Plant development.

Greg Jenson stated the Council approved a moratorium on removal of the foundry portion of the Highway Trailer Building.

Sid Boersma stated he would like to see the foundry portion of the Highway Trailer Building gain landmark status.

Veregin stated the commission would need to do some homework to check eligibility for Local Landmark status. Veregin noted the State would have to check the building for National Registry eligibility which could take a few weeks. Removing portions of the building may affect eligibility.

Veregin has a report from Gail Kline regarding the history of the property. Veregin will forward the web-link for the report to Commission members.

Boersma wants to make sure the building is eligible to be on the National Registry.

Greg Jenson stated a structural engineer will need to make sure the foundry portion of the building is repairable and he would like this piece of history saved. He talked of public vs private ownership with private ownership being most likely for profitability.

The requirements for eligibility for Local Landmark and National Registry status were discussed. This information will help the Common Council make future decisions.

Tass-Johnson arrived at 7:30 pm

Potential future uses for the Power Plant were briefly discussed.

Local Landmark eligibility for the Highway Trailer Building will be placed on the next agenda.

8. Discuss Commission initiatives.

Comprehensive Plan Rewrite: A discussion is planned for the May 8th Planning meeting at 7:00 pm. Cook plans to review the plan and come up with specifics to be added in relation to historic preservation.

Contractors List: Veregin suggested the commission partner with the Olde House Group to create a list. Tass-Johnson will follow-up with the Olde House Group.

COA Sample Submittal: Veregin and Pigarelli are working on this.

Mini-Grants: Cook suggested an informal meet-up on Syttende Mai Sunday. The commission is in favor.

9. Discuss previous local landmark approvals.

The commission discussed whether to record the Local Landmark resolutions or not. The consensus was it would be best to record the documents for a legal property record. Further discussion planned for next month.

10. Commission Reports/Calendar.

May is Historic Preservation Month.

Matt Bartlett requested information regarding individuals with historic preservation expertise that may be interested in being a Planning Commissioner.

Greg Jenson would like to add two members to the Planning Commission, one being an alderperson and the other a citizen member with historic preservation expertise.

Tass-Johnson and Bartlett are going to contact Todd Barman to find out if he has interest.

Election of officers will be on the next agenda.

The commission will discuss CLG Grants and candidates for a historic preservation award at the next meeting.

11. Reminder: Registration deadline for WAHPC conference (4/28 - 4/29, in Reedsburg) is 4/20.

The commission briefly discussed the upcoming conference.

12. Future agenda items.

None discussed.

13. Adjournment. Motion by Hedstrom to adjourn at 8:50 pm, 2nd by Cook. Motion carried 5 - 0.

Respectfully Submitted, Michael Stacey