

HERITAGE PRESERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES

DATE: May 8, 2013

TIME: 4:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Kendall Larson, Andy Bloedorn, Wes Hamilton, Shaune Burke, Robert Sebo, Susan Briggs, Lynn Englund, Mary Edel Beyer, Merle Hanson and Carolyn Larson

STAFF PRESENT: Mark Moeller

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Chairman Sebo.

Given review of the Commission's April 10, 2013 meeting, Commissioner Kendall Larson noted that, although not reflected in the minutes, she was in attendance at that meeting. She also offered modified text to be included under the 2013 CLG Grant discussion.

Mark Moeller, City Planner, noted that changes as proposed by Commissioner Kendall Larson will be included in the final text. Given the previous, it was moved and seconded to approve the minutes as amended.

Public Hearing – Proposed Local Historic Site Designation – 275 Harriet Street

Chairman Sebo introduced this item by stating that the Commission had initiated the Local Designation Nomination process of 275 Harriet Street on April 10, 2013. As required by City Code, this action was initiated by resolution followed by notice to the property owner, David and Kathleen Christenson. As a side note, Chairman Sebo noted that the Christenson were supportive of the nomination and that the nomination form had been prepared by Greg Gaut consultant, with the assistance of a Certified Local Government Grant from the Minnesota Historical Society. Procedurally, Chairman Sebo stated that the nomination had been reviewed by the Planning Commission on April 15th and by the State Historic Preservation Office on April 25th. Both had recommended certification of the nomination. Given those actions, the purpose of this afternoon's meeting was to hold a required public hearing relative to the nomination. Given that introduction, he called upon Greg Gaut, historic consultant, to provide a summary of the nomination form. He stated that the nomination was based upon its historical and architectural significant and that its Queen Anne Architectural Style has been well maintained since created.

Mr. Gaut explained that, historically, the structure has been owned by just a few individuals. The current owners, the Christensons, acquired the property in 1976 and have worked very hard in maintaining the character of the original structure since that time. In 1984, the home was listed on the National Register, and in 2007, the Commission had recognized the Christenson's efforts by providing them with a Commendation Award.

At this point, Mr. Gaut provided a number of slides showing various elevations of the structure and describing how the Queen Anne Style affects these.

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In concluding, he felt that the structure was a very significant one historically and should be recognized for that quality.

At this point, Chairman Sebo opened the public hearing and called for any person who wished to speak to provide their name and address.

Preston Lawing, 351 West Broadway, noted that he and his wife are privileged to live across the street from such a prestigious home and commended the Christensons for past restoration efforts. He felt that the structure was very worthy of local designation and encouraged the Commission to approve the nomination.

Kathy Christenson, 275 Harriet, stated that she and her husband have looked forward to the Local Nomination of their property for a number of years. She stated that they both support preservation and preservation issues and look forward to continuing to be good stewards of their structure for years to come.

There being no further comments from the public, the public hearing was closed.

Following brief discussion, it was moved by Commissioner Englund and seconded by Commissioner Burke to recommend approval of the Resolution, included in the Commission's agenda package, and requesting Council approval of the nomination. When the question was called, the vote of the Commission was unanimous to approve the motion.

Mr. Moeller noted that the next step in this process would be to establish a second hearing date before Council that is expected to occur in mid June.

Preservation Month

Chairman Sebo explained that although May is officially Preservation Month, he would like to establish a Commission Open House recognizing the event to follow the Commission's June meeting. At this point, he was looking at hosting the event at the County Historical Society. As is typical, he noted a desire to recognize a couple of commercial property owners who have done a good job in maintaining historic values of their buildings. Following discussion, potential candidates for this recognition included the Thompson home on East Wabasha, the Fastenal Museum located on Lafayette, between Second and Front Streets, St. Martin's Church, and St. Stans. Basillica. It was also suggested that consideration be given to granting Commendation Awards to the four elementary schools that were recently placed on the National Register.

Commissioner Burke strongly suggested that prior to next year's event, all should be encouraged to watch for significant restoration activities that have occurred of residential homes throughout the community.

In consideration of the previous list, the consensus of those present was that commendation awards should be presented to the School District for their continued maintenance and use of W-K, Central, Madison, and Jefferson Schools.

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Mr. Moeller noted that staff would provide a letter to the district of this nomination, and would handle all other public relations for the open house.

Report of Nominating Committee-Commission Vice Chair

Chairman Sebo stated that during the Commission's last meeting, he had appointed Commissioners Briggs, K.Larson, and Hamilton to present a slate of officers for the position of Vice Chair. Following the report of that Committee, and further discussion of the Commission, it was moved to appoint Lynn Englund to the position of Vice Chair. When the question was called, the vote of the Commission was unanimous to approve the motion.

Other Business

It was noted that a National Train Day celebration would be held at the Amtrak Station between 2:00-4:00 pm on Saturday, May 11th. All were encouraged to attend.

Mr. Moeller stated that the City had tentatively been notified that its grant to prepare a National Register Nomination Form for the UBC property, with the assistance of a Certified Local Government grant, had been approved by the State Historical Society.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned.



Mark Moeller
City Planner