

**EAU CLAIRE
LANDMARKS COMMISSION**

Meeting of September 12, 2016

Members Present: John Mann, Dale Poynter, Brady Foust, Dave Strobel, Joan Myers

Members Absent: Ken Ziehr, Jane Seymour Kunick

Minutes: The minutes of the August 1, 2016, meeting were approved as written.

The meeting was chaired by John Mann and called to order in the City Council Chambers at 4:30 p.m.

- 1. Public Hearing and consideration of designation of Railroad Switching Tower.** Pat Ivory provided an overview of the proposed local landmark designation of the Milwaukee-Omaha Railroad Switching Tower located in Carson Park. The tower was constructed in 1896 and located to the southeast of Banbury Place (formerly Uniroyal). It continued in operation until 1991 when the operation of the control switches was moved to a train dispatcher in Chicago. Rights to the tower were given to the City and it was moved to Carson Park in 1992. The City owns the tower, but is leased to the Chippewa Valley Railroad Association.

Pat noted that notices had been sent out about the proposed designation and the City had not received any objections.

Dave Peterson, President of the Chippewa Valley Railroad Association, was present at the meeting in support of the designation. Mr. Peterson discussed the history and significance of the tower noting that the switching equipment remains in the tower and is significant from an engineering perspective. He added that this was the last operating switching tower in Wisconsin. He also noted that the stairway for the tower was not original and the Association was in the process of replacing the stairway to make the second floor more accessible. He discussed the design of the stairs and railing noting that the stairway will extend out slightly further from the tower in comparison to the existing stairway.

ACTION TAKEN: Brady Foust moved to designate the tower as a local landmark pursuant to Chapter 2.65 noting that the tower exemplified the broad cultural, economic, and social history of the State and community; and embodied distinguishing features of an architectural type that is inherently valuable in the study of the railroad era. Joan Myers seconded the motion. All votes were in favor. Motion carried.

- 2. Discussion and update on the proposed exterior maintenance projects for the City Hall buildings.** Pat Ivory updated the Commission on the proposed maintenance work on the exterior of the City Hall buildings. The Commission had discussed the work at their August meeting and Pat noted that information about the work had been recently sent to the Wisconsin Historical

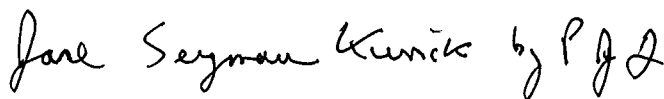
Society for comment. The work includes replacement of the flat roofs, building cleaning and mortar repair, and window replacement.

Rod Bonesteel, City Buildings Superintendent, was present at the meeting and discussed the maintenance work in detail. Dale Poynter suggested that the City consider a lighter color for the framework and mullions for the windows. He noted that with the dark glass, there is little contrast between the glass and the current dark frames and mullions. It was also noted that the windows at Schofield Hall were recently replaced, which would have required review by the Wisconsin Historical Society. The bid alternate for the divided window mullions for the north wing was also discussed.

3. **Comment on Eddy Street Bridge replacement project.** Pat Ivory provided an overview of plans to replace the Eddy Street Bridge over the Union Pacific Railroad. The review is part of the Section 106 regulations since Federal and State funds will be used in the construction of the new bridge. The Commission's input is to determine if any historic properties are affected by the project. The Commission discussed the project and surrounding properties and noted that no historic properties appeared to be impacted by the project based on a review of the City's Intensive Historic Survey. The nearest identified historic property would be Eau Claire Academy located to the southeast.
4. **Update on Landmark Activities and Properties, including:**
 - A. **Report from Historic Preservation Foundation.** The Commission was informed that the Historic Preservation Foundation would be sponsoring a historic home tour on Saturday, September 24th. The focus of the tour will be the Randall Park Neighborhood.
 - B. **Update on 1004 Menomonie Street.** The Commission was informed that the Plan Commission had approved the conditional use permit submitted by Mr. James Rolbiecki to operate a tavern at 1004 Menomonie Street.

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

Submitted by,



Jane Seymour Kunick