

**EAU CLAIRE  
LANDMARKS COMMISSION**

**Meeting of October 3, 2016**

**Members Present:** John Mann, Dale Poynter, Brady Foust, Dave Strobel, Joan Myers, Ken Ziehr, Jane Seymour Kunick

**Members Absent:** None

**Minutes:** The minutes of the September 12, 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 Northwestern Railroad Bridge.** Pat Ivory provided an overview of the proposed local landmark designation of the Northwestern Railroad Bridge spanning the Chippewa River and located to the northwest of the City's Central Maintenance Facility on Forest Street. The bridge is also known as the High Bridge. The bridge was constructed in 1881 by the Leighton Bridge Works. The Chicago-Northwestern Railroad abandoned the bridge in 1992 and was sold to the City of Eau Claire. The bridge was converted into a pedestrian bridge in 2015.

The bridge is listed as eligible for the National Register. Regional railroad historian John Marvig stated that "this bridge is likely the most significant railroad bridge in Wisconsin based on its age and builders. It is the only quintuple lattice truss bridge known in the world and one of the last surviving products of Leighton Bridge Works."

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

Jeremy Gragert, spoke in favor of the designation noting that the bridge is a wonderful addition to the City's trail system and worthy of preservation.

Jim Dillion had questions as to whether the designation of the bridge would impact the neighborhood to the west. He also had questions about the future Cannery District development.

Jamie Birkel also had questions about the Cannery District and trail use of the bridge.

The Commission discussed the designation and responded to the questions of Ms. Birkel and Mr. Dillion.

**ACTION TAKEN:** Ken Ziehr moved to amend the wording of the draft resolution to indicate the engineering significance of the bridge. Dale Poynter seconded the motion. All votes were in favor. Motion carried.

Ken Ziehr then moved to approve the resolution designating the Northwestern Bridge as a local landmark pursuant to Chapter 2.65 noting that the bridge exemplifies the broad cultural, economic, and social history of the State and community; and embodies distinguishing features an engineering design that is inherently valuable in the study of this era. Dale Poynter seconded the motion. All votes were in favor. Motion carried.

- 2. Public Hearing and consideration of designation of Soo Line Railroad Bridge.** Pat Ivory provided an overview of the proposed local landmark designation of the Soo Line Railroad Bridge spanning the Eau Claire River and located to the southeast of Banbury Place. The bridge was constructed in 1910 and operated by the Soo Line Railroad until 1991. It was listed as eligible for the National Register in 1998 and converted into a pedestrian bridge in 2002.

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

Jeremey Gragert, spoke in favor of the designation.

**ACTION TAKEN:** Ken Ziehr moved to amend the wording of the draft resolution to indicate the engineering significance of the bridge. Dale Poynter seconded the motion. All votes were in favor. Motion carried.

Dale Poynter then moved to approve the resolution designating the Soo Line Railroad Bridge as a local landmark pursuant to Chapter 2.65 noting that the bridge exemplifies the broad cultural, economic, and social history of the State and community; and embodies distinguishing features an engineering design that is inherently valuable in the study of this era. Ken Ziehr seconded the motion. All votes were in favor. Motion carried.


- 3. 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 work includes replacement of the flat roofs, building cleaning, mortar repair, and window replacement. The Commission had discussed this work at their August and September meetings. Pat informed the Commission that information about the work had been sent to the Wisconsin Historical Society (WHS) for comment. The WHS had responded back approving the work for the roof/balustrade repairs, building cleaning, and mortar repair. The WHS indicated that they would prefer to see exterior/interior muntins installed on the windows of the original City Hall building similar to the original windows. Other conditions were also discussed. The City will discuss this further with the WHS. The Commission indicated that they support the recommendations of the WHS.

4. **Update on Landmark Activities and Properties, including:**

- A. **Report from Historic Preservation Foundation.** The Commission was informed that the Historic Preservation Foundation sponsored a historic home tour on Saturday, September 24<sup>th</sup>. The focus of the tour was the Randall Park Neighborhood. Pat did not have any details on the attendance of the tour.
- B. **Update on 1004 Menomonie Street.** The Commission was informed that the City Council had approved the liquor license submitted by Mr. James Rolbiecki to operate a tavern at 1004 Menomonie Street (former Kaiser Lumber Company Office).

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Submitted by,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jane Seymour Kunick by PAA". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Jane Seymour Kunick