

Landmarks Commission Minutes May 1, 2023

Members Present: Raivo Balciunas, Dave Barnes, Jenny Ebert, Robert Gough, Charlie

Johnson, Greg Kocken, Rick Schemm

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Ned Noel, Katrina Berg, Steve Plaza

Others Present: Alex Padrnos, Ryan Stolt, David Strobel

The following items were on the agenda:

1. Call to order

Chair Ebert called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

2. Roll call

Roll was taken and a quorum was present.

3. Approval of 2/6/23 Minutes

Member Raivo moved to approve and member Kocken seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

4. Open public comment period for items that do not appear on this agenda noted as public hearings or items for public discussion.

Dave Strobel recommended additional efforts to educate homeowners of historic homes about tax credits.

5. Certificate of Appropriateness – 204 E. Grand Ave. Signage

Mr. Noel presented the staff report. The applicant included various sign options (roof sign, wall, projecting and awning) to consider. A new entrance off Graham Ave. would serve a new brewery restaurant. Only one sign is allowed per street frontage for the tenant. A projecting sign for a second-floor architectural firm was installed at the corner of Grand and Graham without landmarks approval but a sign permit was issued.

Representatives from JCAP (Alex Padrnos) and Bloomer Brewery (Ryan Stolt) shared the need for an additional egress on Graham Avenue to meet building code. The existing entrance off Graham is not allowed since electrical meters were moved into it from the basement per Xcel Energy's requirement. They shared their preference is to have more signage but if only two than the awning signs are desired.

Committee members and public discussed the pros and cons of the new additional door and requested more options and details.

Member Kocken moved to approve the roof sign as proposed. Member Barnes seconded. Motion carried.

Member Balciunas moved to approve the Wendel Sign and the two awning signs as presented. Seconded by Member Johnson. Motion carried.

Member Johnson moved to postpone the discussion pending architectural designs addressing the door. Member Barnes seconded and the motion carried, with only member Schemm opposed.

6. Forest Hill Cemetery Landmarking Discussion

Members were in favor of beginning to consider landmarking Forest Hill Cemetery based on the research in the document *Rest In Nature*. Landmarking cemeteries are rare but that may be changing nationally.

Members Kocken and Gough agreed to further research pros and cons of landmarking the cemetery.

7. Roosevelt Avenue National Historic District Discussion

Mr. Noel posed a question about a theoretical demolition of a damaged nationally registered home. The house is eligible for local designation; however, it is not currently locally landmarked.

Committee members shared disapproval of a potential demolition of the home.

8. Other business agenda items In-person, Virtual, or Hybrid Meetings Discussion Mr. Noel shared City Council's new ordinance allowing virtual, hybrid, or in-person meetings.

No decision was made but there was preference to meet in-person as much as possible.

9. Future agenda items and announcements None.

10. Adjournment

Chair Ebert adjourned the commission meeting at 6:04 p.m.

Submitted by, Rick Achem

Rick Schemm, Secretary