

# Landmarks Commission Minutes October 2, 2023

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

Schemm

Members Absent: Charlie Johnson, Greg Kocken

**Staff Present:** Peter Baumgartner, Ned Noel

Public Present: Sam Rubenzer, Mel Erickson, Patrick Batz

The following items were on the agenda:

### 1. Call to order

Chair Ebert called the meeting to order at 4:33 p.m.

### 2. Roll call

Roll was taken and a quorum was present.

# 3. Approval of 9/11/23 Minutes

Member Schemm moved to approve and Member Gough seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

## 4. Certificate of Appropriateness – 920 Farwell

Mr. Baumgartner presented the staff report, recommending the approval of a Certificate of Appropriateness for everything except the block windows.

Motion to approve the Certificate of Appropriateness by Member Balciunas, seconded by Member Shemm with the condition to allow the basement windows to be replaced in a manner that architecturally similar to the existing windows. Motion passed unanimously.

### 5. Local Landmark Designation & Public hearing – 125 Marston Ave.

Mr. Noel presented the nomination of 125 Marston Ave. for it's local landmark designation. Motion to approve the nomination by Member Shemm, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Member Balciunas. Motion passed unanimously.

# 6. Local Landmark Nomination Consideration New – 235 Roosevelt Ave.

Mr. Noel explained that the property owner is interested in locally landmarking their house and to potentially take advantage of the historic rehabilitation loan program. It is a contributing property in the Eau Claire Park Company Addition Historic National District.

Mr. Barnes noted that the McAfees were well known in the community. Ms. Ebert and Mr. Gough noted that this house is reflective of the regeneration of housing construction that took place in that area prior to World War 2. According to an email sent by Mr. Kocken, Leonard J. Seyberth, who developed the party permit system for the Wisconsin Deer Hunt also once lived here. Motion to move forward with the local landmarks nomination by Member Shemm, second by Member Barnes. Motion passed unanimously.

### 7. Local Landmark Nomination Consideration Update – 109 Marston Ave.

Mr. Noel presented blueprints for the building from 1925 that detailed the changes that were made to the structure. After some discussion on the architect, Charles A. Pear Architectural Service Company, and that the plans were ordered by O.G. Brice, it was determined that staff should research it further.

# 8. Shear Boom Plaque

Mr. Noel presented a request by Mel Erickson, a local resident, to repair and possibly relocating the canal plaque to where the shear boom once operated.

Mel Erickson, the applicant, stated that where Sonnentag is now is where the canal to Half Moon Lake was. Mr. Erickson provided details on details on how shear boom and its fins worked, noting that it was his great, great grandfather who invented it. Ebert noted that she though logs went through the flume. Mel noted that that was in 1880 when/after the dam was constructed, and that the shear boom was in place for the 20 years prior. Mel also clarified that he was requesting that a new plaque be put in at the river location.

Staff to look into how many shear booms were made, the potential plaza at Sonnentag as a location for Mr. Erickson's plaque, and work with Mr. Erickson and the Parks Department.

Motion to work on plaque by Member Balciunas, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Member Gough. Motion passed unanimously.

# 9. Forest Hill Cemetery National Register Questionnaire

Mr. Gough gave an update on the form. Ebert asked if they ever figured out if there were any living family members of the residents of the former mausoleums. Bob offered to start with the local nomination of the cemetery. Noel noted that he's working with community services on concerns that they have regarding what they wouldn't be able to do regarding a future retaining wall and a passive park. Bob noted that the geographical boundaries need to be decided.

### 10. High Bridge Restoration Award Event

The awards presentation will be at 11 am on October 13<sup>th</sup> and all commissioners are invited. The east side of the bridge will be used or City Shops in case there is bad weather.

### 11. Work Plan

Noel noted that major headway has been made on the work plan, going through each item.

### 12. Future agenda items and announcements

- November 6<sup>th</sup> meeting rescheduled to November 13th due to a conflict with the Zoning Policy Advisory Committee.
- Alternative meeting locations will be explored.
- 235 Roosevelt will be back for its nomination.
- 109 Marston will be back for further discussion.

### 13. Adjournment

Chair Ebert called for adjournment of the meeting at 5:48 p.m.

Submitted by, Rick Achem

Rick Schemm Secretary