



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

Members Absent: Charlie Johnson, Rick Schemm

Staff Present: Peter Baumgartner, Ned Noel, Steve Plaza

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. Election of Officers**
 - a. Chair
 - i. Jenny Ebert was nominated for the Chair nominated by Member Gough, Second by Member Balciunas, and approved unanimously.
 - b. Vice-chair
 - i. Greg Kocken was nominated for Vice-Chair by Member Barnes, Second by Member Gough, and approved unanimously.
 - c. Secretary
 - i. Raivo Balciunas was nominated for Secretary by Vice-Chair Kocken, Second by Member Gough, and approved unanimously.
- 4. Approval of 11/13/23 Minutes**
Member Gough moved to approve and Member Balciunas seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
- 5. Landmarking of Forest Hill Cemetery.**
Noel gave an overview of past discussion, he then introduced Steve Plaza to the Commission and mentioned that Parks will be building a retaining wall in the cemetery this year.

The conversation between staff and the Landmarks Commission was centered around city staff being able to do the maintenance that they need to do when they need to do it, a potential master plan for Plank Hill and it's associated walking trail/outlook, and the review future expansions and mausoleums. Plaza stated that he wasn't opposed to the Landmarks Commission's review of future projects, it just needs to be discussed internally more. Ultimately, it was decided that staff should look into whether they can just make up rules for cemeteries and landscapes and request a copy of La Crosses landmarks nomination.

A motion to pursue locally landmarking the cemetery was made by Secretary Balciunas and Seconded by Vice-Chair Kocken, and approved unanimously.

6. Bronze Plaques

Baumgartner led a discussion on plaques, going over the quotes that he had received from two nearby companies and that staff was thinking that they'd be used for non-residential properties. The following comments were provided by the commissioners:

- A grant should be pursued for funding and staff should maybe look at 17 of the most high-profile sites for plaques. Staff will check with the state on grants.
- Perhaps a plaque district should be established
- Are there any local companies that could do the work. Staff noted that Artisan Forge said they could not do it.
- Staff should keep using the current logo, maybe scale it down a bit to save on costs.
- The plaques efforts should focus on the downtown as a district, but they could be appropriate in any commercial district.

7. 2023 Annual GLG Report

Baumgartner briefly went over the answers that were submitted for the 2023 Annual GLG Report. Staff will let the commissioners know if there are any future training opportunities for the commissioners.

8. Future agenda items and announcements

- Chair Ebert mentioned that the landmark booklets could be given to museums and that the paper could highlight one landmarked property a week for National Preservation Month,
 - Noel suggested that he talk to Aiden about it.

9. Adjournment

Chair Ebert called for adjournment of the meeting at 5:30 p.m.

Submitted by,



Raivo Balciunas
Secretary