

**EAU CLAIRE
LANDMARKS COMMISSION**

Meeting of May 6, 2013

Members Present: Katrinka Bourne, Carrie Ronnander, Patrick Kurtenbach, Jim Seymour, Dave Strobel

Members Absent: Karen Nusbaum, Ken Ziehr

Minutes. The minutes of the April 1, 2013 meeting were approved as written.

The meeting was chaired by Katrinka Bourne and called to order at 4:30 p.m.

New Commission Member. The Commission welcomed Dave Strobel to the Commission. Dave replaces Kathy Mitchell as the representative from the City Council.

1. Consideration of the Designation of Hoover Chapel as a Local Landmark Pursuant to Chapter 2.65.

The Commission held a public hearing to consider the landmark designation of Hoover Chapel located in Lakeview Cemetery as a local landmark pursuant to Chapter 2.65. Hoover Chapel is a one-story; Neo-Gothic building that was constructed in 1936. It was designed by architect, John Tilton, and constructed by Hoepfner-Bartlett Company. Construction of the chapel was financed by Fannie Hoover Buffington, who was an active member of Christ Church Cathedral.

The chapel is architecturally significant as it is a fine and intact example of the Neo-Gothic Revival style. It was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2000. The chapel was renovated in 2000 with work donated by the members of Christ Church Cathedral.

Todd Chwala, Superintendent of the Parks, Forestry, and Cemetery Division, was present at the meeting and discussed the building. He noted that the chapel can be reserved by the public for gatherings such as visitations and weddings.

John Stuve, Assistant Sexton, for the City's cemeteries was also present at the meeting.

ACTION TAKEN: Dave Strobel moved to designate Hoover Chapel as a local landmark pursuant to Chapter 2.65 finding that the property is significant as it represents a distinguishing example of an architectural type that is inherently valuable within the City. Pat Kurtenbach seconded the motion. All votes were in favor. Motion carried.

2. Consideration of the Designation of Putnam Chapel as a Local Landmark Pursuant to Chapter 2.65.

The Commission held a public hearing to consider the landmark designation of Putnam Chapel located in Forest Hill Cemetery as a local landmark pursuant to Chapter 2.65. Putnam Chapel, similar to Hoover Chapel, is a one-story, Neo-Gothic building. It was constructed in 1908 and funded by Jane E. Putman, wife of Henry C. Putnam. The chapel retains excellent architectural integrity, with its lead glass windows restored in 1978.

Todd Chwala, Superintendent of the Parks, Forestry, and Cemetery Division, discussed the chapel noting that some renovation work is necessary for the building, including a new furnace.

ACTION TAKEN: Dave Strobel moved to designate Putnam Chapel as a local landmark pursuant to Chapter 2.65 finding that the property is significant as it represents a distinguishing example of an architectural type that is inherently valuable within the City. Carrie Ronnander seconded the motion. All votes were in favor. Motion carried.

3. Discussion of 2013 Newsletter.

The Commission continued their discussion regarding the preparation of the 2013 newsletter and reviewed a draft revised since the previous meeting. Pat Ivory noted that the intern from the Historic Preservation Foundation had been working on the draft and anticipated having the newsletter completed for distribution in June.

4. Discussion of Local Landmark Designation Priorities.

The Commission continued their discussion from the April meeting concerning other potential local landmark designations. Properties discussed included the Water Street National Register District and the Federal Courthouse. Pat indicated that he had discussed the potential of local landmarking the Federal Courthouse with the City Attorney. Pat noted that the City Attorney indicated if landmarked the City would not have any jurisdiction over any changes made to the building, therefore, questioned any benefit gained by pursuing a local designation. He noted that any such work would have to be approved by the National Parks Service since the building was already on the National Register. He suggested that if the Commission did want to consider the designation, that they should make contact with a person that could speak on behalf of the building. Pat Kurtenbach suggested that the Wisconsin Historical Society be contacted to confirm this. Dave Strobel inquired about the Confluence National Register District and the Commission's position on the redevelopment project. The Commission indicated that they could discuss this at a future meeting and asked Pat to forward meeting minutes to Mr. Strobel concerning the Commission's discussion relating to the project.

5. Update on Landmark Activities and Properties.

- A. **Update from Eau Claire Historic Preservation Foundation.** Pat Kurtenbach provided an update of Foundation activities, including the spring home tour to be held on May 18th. Hoover Chapel and Putnam Chapel were included in the tour.
- B. **Preservation Month Proclamation.** Pat noted that he had prepared the proclamation for the City Council's May 14th meeting regarding Preservation Month. Katrinka Bourne will be present at the Council meeting.
- C. **1300 First Avenue.** Pat noted that the former Parks and Recreation building located at 1300 First Avenue was recently determined to be eligible for the National Register. A developer interested in purchasing the building from the City requested this determination from the Wisconsin Historical Society to provide tax credits for their redevelopment project.
- D. **City Hall South Entrance.** Pat informed the Commission that the south entrance to City Hall had recently been damaged. City officials are presently discussing whether to replace or remove the entrance. Pat noted that any plans for the entrance will have to be approved by the Commission since the building is on the local register.
- E. **Wisconsin Association of Historic Preservation Commission Spring Meeting.** Pat Kurtenbach provided an overview of the spring meeting of the Wisconsin Association of Historic Preservation Commissions held in Milton, Wisconsin, on April 27th.
- F. **Future Meeting Topics.** Dave Strobel asked that the Commission review the Historic Preservation Chapter of the Comprehensive Plan.

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

Submitted by,

Patrick Kurtenbach, Secretary