

**EAU CLAIRE
LANDMARKS COMMISSION**

Meeting of May 5, 2014

Members Present: Katrinka Bourne, Carrie Ronnander, Ken Ziehr, Dave Strobel, Patrick Kurtenbach, Jim Seymour, Jane Seymour Kunick

Members Absent: None

Minutes. The minutes of the April 7, 2014, meeting were approved as written.

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

- 1. Public Hearing and Consideration of Designation of 212 McKinley Avenue as a Landmark Property Pursuant to Chapter 2.65.** Pat Ivory provided an overview of the landmark nomination prepared for 212 McKinley Avenue. The property is owned by Jeffery and Sara Frenette. The Frenette's contacted the Commission in 2013 and requested consideration of local designation of their property.

The Commission reviewed the background of the property relating to its history and architecture. The Commission noted that the home was constructed in 1929 and it is an excellent example of Tudor Revival architecture and is in excellent condition. The Commission noted that Herman White and his wife, Frieda, lived in the house for 50 years. Mr. White was a noted businessman, civic leader, and was instrumental in the development of baseball in Eau Claire. He passed away in 1976 and was nominated to the Eau Claire Baseball Hall of Fame in 2008.

Sara Frenette, owner of the property, spoke in support. Mrs. Frenette stated that she was very excited to have the property designated.

The Commission thanked Mrs. Frenette and her husband for their interest in preserving the property. Dave Strobel also thanked Carrie Ronnander and Ken Ziehr for their work in preparing the nomination.

ACTION TAKEN: Carrie Ronnander moved to designate 212 McKinley Avenue (the Herman and Frieda White House) as a local landmark pursuant to Chapter 2.65 noting that the property has significance relating to both the architecture of the house and the importance of Herman White in the community. Jim Seymour seconded the motion. All votes were in favor. Motion carried.

- 2. Presentation on HistoryPin Project.** John Vanek, editor from the Chippewa Valley Museum, was present at the meeting to discuss the possibility of adding properties listed in the Landmarks Tour Booklet onto the HistoryPin website. This website is a free, interactive site that can provide links to photos of buildings and includes narrative information about the history or architecture of the buildings. The Museum is working with Visit Eau Claire and other organizations and has received

a grant to undertake various historical and culture projects in the community. The HistoryPin project would be one of several projects undertaken with the grant funds. John indicated that most of the work would be completed by the Museum and volunteers. The Commission's primary responsibility would be providing the photographs for the project.

The Commission discussed the proposal and indicated their interest in participating. The Commission noted that the historic markers placed along the recreational trail should also be included as time allows.

ACTION TAKEN: Ken Ziehr moved that the Commission support the project and work with the Chippewa Valley Museum on the HistoryPin project noting that the Commission would like to see periodic updates of the progress of the project. Jim Seymour seconded the motion. All votes were in favor. Motion carried.

3. Update on Landmark Activities and Properties.

- A. Report from the Historic Preservation Foundation.** Pat Kurtenbach updated the Commission on current activities of the Historic Preservation Foundation, including plans for their annual meeting to be held on May 6th and distribution of their newsletter. Pat also discussed the spring meeting of the Wisconsin Association of Historic Preservation Commissions.
- B. Update on Preservation Month Activities.** Pat Ivory updated the Commission on the Commission's Preservation Month activities to be held in May which include: a presentation from Jen Davel, Preservation Architect for the Wisconsin Historical Society, regarding the rehabilitation tax credit program and recent changes in the program; the landmark designation of 212 McKinley Avenue (earlier in meeting), and a City Council Preservation Month proclamation.
- C. Discussion of Woo's Pagoda Building.** The Commission discussed the status of the Woo's Pagoda Building. It was noted that the building would be demolished as part of the CVS Pharmacy project. Although not on the local register or National Register, Commission members noted that the pagoda portion of the building was an iconic feature along South Hastings Way and efforts should be considered to preserve it at some location.

Susan McLeod, Director of the Chippewa Valley Museum, stated that she was trying to contact someone involved with the CVS project to determine if the pagoda could be salvaged and moved. She also wanted to ask what the timeframe was for the demolition of the building and if some additional time could be provided to allow for the relocation of the pagoda. She indicated that she did not know whether the Museum would be able to take the pagoda and that decision would be up to her Board of Directors.

Carrie Ronnander and Jane Seymour Kunick left the meeting.

Ken Ziehr indicated that he would be willing to contact some people such as an engineer, mover, and contractor in an attempt to obtain more information regarding the size and condition of the pagoda and the feasibility of moving it. Jim Seymour also indicated that he would be willing to look at the structure if needed.

ACTION TAKEN: Ken Ziehr moved that the Commission strongly supports the efforts of preservationists to investigate the possibility of saving the pagoda and moving it to another location. Pat Kurtenbach seconded the motion. All votes were in favor. Motion carried.

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Submitted by,

Patrick Kurtenbach, Secretary