

**EAU CLAIRE
LANDMARKS COMMISSION**

Meeting of July 1, 2014

Members Present: Katrinka Bourne, Ken Ziehr, Dave Strobel, Jim Seymour, Patrick Kurtenbach

Members Absent: Jane Seymour Kunick, Carrie Ronnander

Minutes. The minutes of the June 2, 2014, meeting were approved as written.

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

- 1. Discussion and Comment of 1300 First Avenue National Register Nomination Submittal.** The Commission reviewed a National Register nomination prepared by U.S. West Research, Inc. on behalf of the owners of 1300 First Avenue. The property was determined eligible for the National Register in 2013. The building was constructed in circa. 1903 and is the former Parks and Recreation building. The building was sold by the City to 1st Avenue Eau Claire Housing LP to convert the building into elder housing. The new owners of the building are hoping to use the federal and state tax credits to renovate the building for the housing project.

ACTION TAKEN: Ken Ziehr moved that the Commission support the nomination. Dave Strobel seconded the motion. All votes were in favor. Motion carried.

- 2. Discussion and Comment on Section 106 Review for 402 Water Street.** The Commission reviewed information submitted by Trileaf Environmental Consultants concerning the Section 106 environmental review of a proposed project located 402 Water Street to install additional rooftop antennas and make changes to the existing antennas. The Commission noted that the property is listed as a contributing property within the Water Street Commercial National Register Historic District. The Commission expressed concern about the addition of the new antennas and the overall design and appearance of the three antenna arrays. They noted that the antennas extend well above the top of the building, with two of the arrays located very close to the front along Water Street. They also expressed concern that since the building is located on the eastern perimeter of the historic district, that the antennas are very visible as people approach the district from the east.

ACTION TAKEN: Ken Ziehr moved that the Commission make a finding that the proposed antennas and changes to the existing antennas would have an adverse effect on the Water Street Commercial National Register Historic District as a whole and on 402 Water Street and further recommending that the proposed work not be undertaken and alternatives be considered to remove the existing antennas from the roof and relocate them to another location. Another option would be to consider other antenna design alternatives that would not be visible from the roof of the building. Jim Seymour seconded the motion. All votes were in favor. Motion carried.

- 3. Recommendation on Appointment to the Comprehensive Plan Citizens Advisory Committee.** The Commission reviewed a letter requesting the Commission to select a representative to serve on the Comprehensive Plan Citizens Advisory Committee to update the 2005 Comprehensive Plan.

ACTION TAKEN: Katrinka Bourne moved to nominate Ken Ziehr to the citizens committee. Jim Seymour seconded the motion. All votes were in favor. Motion carried.

4. Update on Landmark Activities and Properties, including:

- A. Review of Historical Information for 316 Eau Claire Street (State Theatre).** The Commission reviewed the information about the State Theatre that was included in the Confluence National Register Historic District nomination. The information included both historical and architectural information about the building. Based on the review of the information, it was the consensus of the Commission that the building most likely had enough historic and architectural importance for the Commission to continue discussions and consideration of local landmark status for the building. As discussed at the previous meeting, the next step would be to arrange a meeting with the Board of Directors for the building to discuss their interests in local landmark designation. It was the consensus of the Commission that a representative from the State Historical Society should be invited to the public hearing (if scheduled) rather than the informational meeting with the Board of Directors.
- B. Review of Report on Third Ward Landmark District.** The Commission reviewed the report prepared by the Commission regarding the status of the opted-out properties from the Third Ward Historic Landmark District. The report had been forwarded to the City Manager's Office in 2011, but never forwarded to the City Council. In light of this delay, the Commission questioned whether the update of the Comprehensive Plan should be completed to provide further direction regarding the opted-out properties. The Commission asked staff to contact the City Manager to inquire about his recommendation regarding the timing of forwarding the report to the City Council.
- C. Update on Historic Preservation Foundation Activities.** Pat Kurtenbach indicated that he was unable to attend the most recent meeting of the Foundation. He stated that he would provide a report at the next Commission meeting.

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

Submitted by,

Patrick Kurtenbach, Secretary