

**EAU CLAIRE
LANDMARKS COMMISSION**

Meeting of October 6, 2014

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

Members Absent: Brady Foust (Also - one vacancy on the Commission)

Minutes. The minutes of the September 8, 2014, meeting were approved as written.

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

1. **Consideration of the Submission of a CLG Grant Application.** The Commission continued their discussion regarding the possibility of submitting an application for grant funds from the CLG grant program through the Wisconsin Historical Society. The Commission discussed possible projects such as National Register nominations, updates of the Historic Intensive Survey, and an update of the Commission's tour booklet. Pat Ivory noted that he had contacted a representative from the Wisconsin Historical Society who noted that survey updates and National Register nominations continue to be priorities for the grant program.

The Commission discussed the current status of the City's Intensive Surveys, noting that with the exception of the surveys recently completed for the Eastside Hill and Upper Westside Neighborhoods, the City's surveys were quite dated.

ACTION TAKEN: Ken Ziehr moved that the City should submit an application for CLG grant funding to update the City-wide Historic Intensive Survey and request the grant maximum of \$25,000. Dave Strobel seconded the motion. All votes were in favor. Motion carried.

2. **Discussion of "Peace Pole" project for the First Congregational Church at 310 Broadway Street.** This item was postponed until more information can be provided for the Commission.

3. **Update on Landmark Activities and Properties, including:**

- A. **Discussion of Status of Future Local Landmark Designations.** The Commission discussed the status of the properties recently contacted to determine the property owner's interest in locally designating their properties. Properties being considered include: 302-310 West Grand Avenue, 1129 Bellevue Avenue, 319 South Barstow Street, 1819 Lyndale Avenue, 1615 State Street, and 316 Eau Claire Street.

The Commission is still waiting to receive a letter requesting designation from the owners of 319 South Barstow Street, to proceed with the public hearing. Jane Seymour Kunick indicated that she had talked with the owners of 302-310 West Grand Avenue and they are now

interested in pursuing local designation. Jane asked Pat to send her the request form. Katrinka Bourne indicated that she had contacted the owner of the 1615 State Street property and she also is interested in local designation and would send her the request form. The property owners of 1129 Bellevue Avenue, and 1819 Lyndale Avenue had not been contacted since the previous meeting.

The Commission then discussed 316 Eau Claire Street (the State Theatre). The next meeting of their Board of Directors is on October 28th. The Commission discussed the meeting with the Board and that Carrie Ronnander and Ken Ziehr would attend.

- B. Discussion and Comment on Confluence Mixed-use Building.** The Commission discussed the revised design plans for the Confluence mixed-use building. The Waterways and Parks Commission recommended approval of the revised plans at their September meeting. The Plan Commission will review the plans later in the day.

The Commission noted that revisions made to the first floor along South Barstow Street did a much better job of incorporating some of the design elements of the neighboring buildings and those that were demolished. However, the upper floors still seem to be “cookie cutter” and derivative of the buildings in the Phoenix Park area, and showed little historic fabric of the streetscape of downtown Eau Claire south of the Eau Claire River. The Commission discussed possible improvements relating to the metal and concrete fiber board siding, windows, roof line, and coloration of some of the brick.

ACTION TAKEN: Ken Ziehr moved that a letter be sent to the City Council noting the Commission’s continued concerns about the revised design and suggesting several design concepts to consider, including:

- The upper floor windows are devoid of any detailing or architectural features. At a minimum, stone or brick sills and lentils should be included to provide more relief and definition to the façade.
- The upper portions of the building still appear to incorporate a mix of metal siding and cement fiber board siding, which would not be appropriate for a major commercial building and should be eliminated.
- The roof line remains very simple with very little ornamentation or variety. Decorative building cornices or parapets should be incorporated into the design to provide added variety and help make the upper portion of the building less “boxy” in appearance.
- The use of yellow brick as a contrasting color on the upper floors again resembles the look of the new buildings in the North Barstow area. The Commission suggested the use of more earth tones or red colors.

Ken also suggested that Katrinka Bourne attend the Plan Commission meeting to convey the Commission’s suggestions. Carrie Ronnander seconded the motion. All votes were in favor. Motion carried.

C. Update on Historic Preservation Foundation Activities. There was no update from the Historic Preservation Foundation.

D. Membership Update. The Commission discussed the current vacancy on the Commission.

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m.