

**EAU CLAIRE
LANDMARKS COMMISSION**

Meeting of February 2, 2015

Members Present: Carrie Ronnander, Ken Ziehr, Brady Foust, John Mann, Jane Seymour Kunick

Members Absent: Katrinka Bourne, Dave Strobel

Minutes: The minutes of the January 5, 2015, meeting were approved as written.

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

Carrie Ronnander introduced Julie Bunke to the Commission. Julie is the new director of the Chippewa Valley Museum.

- 1. Public Hearing and Consideration of the Designation of 317/319 South Barstow Street as a Local Landmark.** The Commission held a public hearing to consider the local landmark designation of 317/319 South Barstow Street, the former Masonic Temple Building. The building was constructed in 1898-99 and was listed on the National Register in 2007. The Eau Claire Masons occupied the building until 1928, when they moved to their present location on Graham Avenue. The first floor of the building has always been used for retail and the Masons utilized the upper floors. The current owners purchased the property in 1985 and utilize the first floor and upper floors for the Antique Emporium. The owners of the property (Hugh Passow and Marcie Edmunds) are requesting the designation.

The Commission discussed the nomination noting that the building is significant based on both its architecture (Romanesque Revival) and for its social/cultural importance in the community.

ACTION TAKEN: Jane Seymour Kunick moved that the Commission designate 317/319 South Barstow Street as a local landmark as provided in Chapter 2.65 of the City Code noting the building's significance reflects the broad cultural and social history of the community and embodies distinguishing characteristics of an architectural type, inherently valuable in the community. John Mann seconded the motion. All votes were in favor. Motion carried.

- 2. Discussion and Update of Request to Demolish 1004 Menomonie Street.** The Commission continued their discussion regarding the request submitted by James Rolbiecki (DMB Distinguished Multiply Buildings, LLC) to demolish the property located at 1004 Menomonie Street, having the historic name of the Kaiser Lumber Company Office. At the January meeting, the Commission voted to deny the request to have the building demolished according to the provisions of Chapter 2.65. The building was constructed in 1905 and was used as an office for the Kaiser Lumber Company until 1939. It is one of the only remaining buildings from the lumber era in the City. After 1939, the building was utilized for various uses, including the Eau Claire

Drum and Bugle Corps and a retail store. The building was later remodeled as a dwelling, but is currently vacant.

Pat Ivory informed the Commission that Mr. James Rolbiecki, the applicant, had indicated that he would not be able to attend the meeting due to conflicts with his work. However, he did forward an email to Pat that discussed issues related to listing the property with a realtor. This information was distributed to the Commission. The Commission was disappointed to learn that Mr. Rolbiecki did not propose to list the property with a realtor as this would make more people aware that the building was for sale.

Sharon Hildebrand, 426 Summit Avenue, informed the Commission that she was willing to assist the Commission in their efforts to preserve the building.

Pat Ivory noted that Jenny Ebert was also willing to assist the Commission if needed.

The Commission discussed the property and subcommittee that had been formed at the January meeting. Issues related to parking for the building were discussed as well as the future University events center to the west and how it would relate to the building at 1004 Menomonie Street.

ACTION TAKEN: Ken Ziehr moved to appoint Jenny Ebert to the subcommittee as a citizen member and that meeting notices also be sent to Sharon Hildebrand. Brady Foust seconded the motion. All votes were in favor. Motion carried.

Brady Foust then moved to add Jane Seymour Kunick to the subcommittee to provide the perspective of a realtor. John Mann seconded the motion. All votes were in favor. Motion carried.

3. **Discussion of 2015 Commission Work Program.** The Commission reviewed the draft 2015 work program that was discussed at the January meeting. The Commission suggested incorporating a news release about the designation of the Masonic Temple as part of Preservation Week.

ACTION TAKEN: Brady Foust moved to accept the 2015 Commission Work Program. Ken Ziehr seconded the motion. All votes were in favor. Motion carried.

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

- A. **Discussion of Comprehensive Plan Update – Historic Preservation Chapter.** The Commission discussed the draft Historic Preservation Chapter of the Comprehensive Plan. The draft would update the current chapter that was adopted in 2005. Pat reviewed several modifications to the draft related to such topics as the opt-out provisions, possible amendments to Chapter 2.65, and need for additional informational/educational materials.

The Commission indicated that the changes suggested by Pat be incorporated into the draft chapter.

- B. Update on State and Federal Historic Tax Credit Program.** The Commission reviewed information from the Wisconsin Historical Society regarding the State and Federal historic tax credit program.
- C. Report from Historic Preservation Foundation.** None.

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

Submitted by,


Jane Seymour Kunick