

MINUTES
City of Monona
Landmarks Commission
Wednesday January 8, 2020

Chair Kuhr called the meeting of the Monona Landmarks Commission to order at 4:31 PM.

Present: Chair Jennifer Kuhr, Mr. Rick Bernstein, Ms. Anne Wellman, Mr. Erik Lincoln, Ms. Mary Murrell, Ms. Rebecca Holmquist and Ms. Branda Weix

Absent: None

Also Present: Douglas Plowman, City Planner

Approval of Minutes

A motion by Mr. Bernstein, seconded by Ms. Weix, for the approval of the minutes of December 11, 2019 carried with no corrections.

Appearances

There were no appearances.

Unfinished Business

- A. Public Hearing and Consideration of Action on Certificate of Appropriateness for a Demolition Permit for a Monona Landmarked Property at 4123 Monona Drive. (Case No. Z-007-2019)

At the request of the applicant there will be no action or discussion on this item. The item will be heard at the February 12th Landmarks Commission meeting.

New Business

A. Discussion of Springhaven Pagoda – Monona Landmark

Planner Plowman gave the Commission a brief overview of the discussion, and how it is intended to develop defining characteristics of currently landmarked properties. The Commission will use the current Landmark Designation forms to develop documentation for these properties. The process is in response to Commission member discussion when reviewing landmark properties for potential certificates of appropriateness.

Ms. Wellman shared that the Pagoda has been a noted site for a long time, and predates the City itself. The Pagoda dates back to the late 19th century, and was likely another destination to visit along with the Tonyawatha Springs Hotel. Mr. Bernstein shared that there is no knowledge of who constructed the Pagoda. Chair Kuhr added that the cement and freeform construction technique make it unique. Mr. Bernstein added that the stone base, concrete pillars and roof are all key components. Ms. Weix suggested referencing the Historic Preservation Plan for the Pagoda for Section A pertaining to the characteristics. Mr. Bernstein added that the photographs from the early 1950's are great examples of its former state. They include the retaining wall, a less significant slope behind the structure and the ball atop the roof. Ms. Weix added that the significance is that it is located by the spring, which ensured that it became a picnic destination. She added that it would be inappropriate to move it, the pagoda and spring go together.

Commission discussion moved to the condition selection that should be made on the form. Ms. Holmquist shared that structurally the Preservation Plan said the Pagoda is good. Ms. Weix suggested that any could be chosen with attached conditions. It was clarified that these

applications can be accepted by the Commission and filed for future reference. There is already good information on the Pagoda, but other properties and sites have less information.

B. Discussion of 4811 Tonyawatha Trail – Monona Landmark Property

Planner Plowman shared an overview of the documentation that was included in the packet. There were extracts from the Monona Landmarks Book, a printout of the State Historical Society webpage as well as extracts from the property file held by the State.

Chair Kuhr added that there had previously been discussion over whether just the house, or both the house and studio should be landmarked. She shared that her opinion is for both to be included, as they're each significant for different reasons. Ms. Murrell added that the Mead and Hunt Intensive Survey discussed the artist and studio a lot in their report. Ms. Weix shared that the garage is part of the property, because there used to be a carriage house on the property. Features of the studio were well documented in the Intensive Survey. Chair Kuhr added that the Tudor Style is important, and that any significant changes to the façade would be of concern.

Chair Kuhr shared that the architect is significant to this property as he was also the designer of the Executive Mansion and has a link to larger Wisconsin importance. Ms. Weix asked if Bohrod completed significant work in the studio or if it was elsewhere. Ms. Murrell responded there are a lot of paintings inside both the house and tunnels. Ms. Weix shared that there is artwork on the exterior of studio that is of significance. Planner Plowman added that he will reference the photos submitted as part of the 2019 Certificate of Appropriateness application for the garage improvements. Chair Kuhr opined that the Studio is of interest to Monona as it is unique within the City, even if it doesn't necessarily meet State or National burdens. Mr. Lincoln agreed, and also referenced the work on the inside of the studio.

C. Staff Updates

i. **Reindahl Mound Marker donation to Historic Blooming Grove Historical Society**

Planner Plowman let the Commission know that the Department of Public Works have moved the Reindahl mound marker from the garage to the grounds of the Dean House at the request of the Historic Blooming Grove Historical Society.

ii. **Monona Mound Marker Update**

Planner Plowman shared that the Mound Marker dedication will likely be pushed to spring in order to place it when the weather is better. Ms. Holmquist suggested doing this in May which is Historic Preservation month. The Commission agreed that this was a good idea.

Upcoming meetings

Upcoming meetings are scheduled for February 12, 2020 (5:30 pm in the Municipal Room of the Monona Library) and March 11, 2020.

Adjournment

A motion by Ms. Holmquist, seconded by Ms. Wellman, to adjourn carried. (5:08pm)

Submitted by,

Doug Plowman, City Planner