

MINUTES
City of Monona
Landmarks Commission
Wednesday January 11, 2023

The meeting of the Monona Landmarks Commission was called to order at 4:39 PM.

Present: Ms. Branda Weix, Mr. Rick Bernstein, Ms. Anne Wellman, Mr. John Chapman, and Ms. Rebecca Holmquist

Absent: Chair Teresa Radermacher and Ms. Peggy Michaelis

Also Present: Douglas Plowman, Planning Director and Thor Jeppson, Assistant Planner

A motion by Ms. Holmquist to nominate Ms. Weix as the Acting Chair of the Landmarks Commission was made. There were no other nominations, and the nominations were closed.

The motion carried 4-0.

Approval of Minutes

A motion by Ms. Holmquist, seconded by Ms. Wellman, for the approval of the minutes of October 12, 2022 carried with no corrections.

Appearances

None

Unfinished Business

A. Discussion of Possible Land Acknowledgement Prior to Landmarks Commission Meetings

Ms. Weix introduced the agenda item and shared examples of land acknowledgements from a City of Monona Indigenous Peoples Day celebration, Madison Schools, UW-Madison, the Wisconsin Union, and the Village of Waunakee. She shared that the Ho-Chunk Nation has stated that in addition to acknowledging the land, a reference to history should be included.

Ms. Holmquist liked the UW-Madison example because it acknowledges the history while the previous City land acknowledgement did not. Ms. Weix shared that the City's was taken from a newspaper article and may not provide the whole quote. Ms. Wellman agreed that the UW-Madison example was the most appropriate model.

Mr. Chapman questioned if it was appropriate to copy another institution's language and asked if the Ho-Chunk Nation should be involved in drafting a land acknowledgement. Ms. Holmquist said a draft could be shared with the Ho-Chunk Nation. Assistant Planner Jeppson suggested a statement of relationship building, such as the one in the Village of Waunakee land acknowledgement, be included and agreed that the Ho-Chunk Nation should be involved in some capacity. Mr. Chapman appreciated the statement of respect for sovereignty included in the UW-Madison land acknowledgement.

Ms. Weix added that the City has a strong connection to effigy mounds and the land acknowledgment should show respect for the mounds. The Parks Department previously shared Ho-Chunk words for the mounds. Ms. Wellman added that the Ho-Chunk words for the land itself could be included in the acknowledgement.

Ms. Weix said that she would locate more examples from Dane County municipalities and share with staff prior to a future discussion.

New Business

A. Discussion of Landmark Site Marker Cleaning

Assistant Planner Jeppson introduced the agenda item. The Commission had discussed the feasibility and cost of cleaning the landmark site markers, potentially as a promotional event during Historic Preservation Month, at the previous meeting.

Ms. Weix asked if there was money in the budget for the project. Assistant Planner Jeppson shared that there were no funds specifically allocated for the project, but a budget request could be considered depending on the cost.

Mr. Bernstein joined at 4:54 PM.

Mr. Chapman asked if the City has a routine process or funding for cleaning the markers. Planning Director Plowman stated that he was not aware of anything and any larger budget request would have to be a 2024 budget request. Mr. Bernstein requested that staff look into the Landmarks book sale fund.

Ms. Wellman stated that many of the markers are on private property, and Ms. Holmquist added that they are likely publically-owned through an easement.

Ms. Holmquist and Mr. Chapman asked if all of the markers needed cleaning. Mr. Bernstein replied that he took a photo inventory and only the first six markers need cleaning, which were produced by a different vendor than the other markers which don't need cleaning.

Mr. Holmquist asked if the price of replacement was comparable to cleaning. She said the Commission last purchased a marker in 2015 or 2016 for 4611 Winnequah Rd. Ms. Wellman asked about the Monona Mound marker. Mr. Bernstein and Planning Director Plowman said that the City funded the new plaque and the stone for Monona Mound, but were unsure of the price.

Assistant Planner Jeppson asked if the Commission would consider using volunteers to clean the markers. Mr. Bernstein said that DIY efforts did not work in the past, but that the Commission could hire a professional to demonstrate proper cleaning techniques on one marker as a teaching tool.

The Commission requested staff look into costs for replacing the markers.

B. Staff Updates

i. National Register Nomination Update

Assistant Planner Jeppson shared the updates. Staff is working with the Frost Woods Homeowners Association to plan educational events about the potential creation of a Historic District. A meeting in February and another in March is the preference. Once dates are identified, staff will coordinate with the Wisconsin Historical Society on a presentation.

5805 Winnequah Road (Bungalowen) was added to the National Register of Historic Places on October 25, 2022. The Nomination was funded by the City's CLG grant.

4811 Tonyawatha Trail (Schroeder House) was nominated to the National Register by the State Historic Preservation Review Board at the November 18, 2022 meeting. It is now on the State Register of Historic Places.

The draft nomination for 110 Henuah Circle was submitted but staff has received no updates. Staff is working to draft a letter of support from the Commission to the State Historic Preservation Review Board.

Staff is continuing to work with the UW-Milwaukee consultants on the draft Landmarks map. Ms. Holmquist asked if an updated version could be shared at the next meeting. Planning Director Plowman shared that the Commission's feedback and the State's feedback have been incorporated, but the Commission may provide another review of the updated draft.

ii. Updates/Discussion on Springhaven Pagoda and Frank Allis House

Assistant Planner Jeppson shared updates on the Springhaven Pagoda. The Parks Department would be covering the Pagoda and that he would follow up with them if it had not already been covered. The \$60,000 capital budget request for repairs to the Pagoda remain. The next step for staff is to work with potential contractors to explore the feasibility of the recommendations in the engineering report. Mr. Bernstein remembered that the engineering report said repairs were feasible. Planning Director Plowman said that the report gave the names of a few potential contractors and the next step is to find contractors willing to take on the project. He added that the Commission needs to explore the spectrum of options.

There was general uncertainty as to the timeline of the Commission's discussions on the Pagoda. Ms. Holmquist requested staff prepare a summary. Mr. Bernstein added that a follow-up with Kurt Strauss and a laser scan were needed. Ms. Holmquist stated that laser scans have been performed twice but were unsuccessful. Mr. Chapman felt the Commission should decide on the scope of repair, and then find a contractor.

Assistant Planner Jeppson shared updates on the Frank Allis House. The City disseminated a second public survey in October 2022 and results are available on the City website. There was one question about the importance of the Frank Allis House to overall appreciation of the property. The Commission discussed how to interpret the results, with 34% of respondents saying the house is not important to their appreciation of the park, 53% saying it was somewhat or very important, and 13% with no opinion.

C. 2022/2023 Work Plan

The Commission reviewed the previously approved 2022/2023 Work Plan to identify work that had been accomplished and necessary changes for 2023. The Commission suggested the timeline for the Landmark Markers and the National Register Webpage be updated to May 2023.

Ms. Wellman was excused at 5:31 PM.

The Commission also suggested the Pagoda timeline be updated to September 2023, and that evaluation of the feasibility of repair be removed as an item. Mr. Bernstein stated that he was working on webpage content for International style homes, with a goal of May 2023. Ms. Holmquist suggested the content be used to develop a walking tour, which could be used as a fundraiser. Someone to lead the walking tour would need to be identified.

The Commission discussed the possibility of using the potential nomination of a Frost Woods Historic District in a Letter of Intent for a 2024 CLG grant.

The Commission requested that staff make the changes to the Work Plan and an official action could be considered at the next meeting.

D. Updates/Discussion on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Efforts

Ms. Weix suggested the Commission look in to using Ho-Chunk words when appropriate for certain locations or descriptors.

E. Updates/Discussion on Sustainability Efforts

None

F. Landmarks Commission Requests for City Staff

Mr. Bernstein presented a poster of the Monona Mound to City staff to be presented at City Hall. Mr. Chapman, Ms. Holmquist, and Planning Director Plowman suggested the poster be presented to City Council at their next meeting.

Upcoming meetings

Upcoming meetings are scheduled for February 8, 2023 and March 8, 2023

Adjournment

A motion by Ms. Holmquist, seconded by Mr. Bernstein, to adjourn carried. (5:43 PM)

Submitted by,

Thor Jeppson, Assistant Planner