

MINUTES  
City of Monona  
Landmarks Commission  
Wednesday May 13, 2020

Chair Schilling called the meeting of the Monona Landmarks Commission to order at 4:33 PM.

Present: Chair Kristie Schilling, Ms. Branda Weix, Ms. Mary Murrell, and Ms. Rebecca Holmquist

Absent: Mr. Erik Lincoln, Mr. Rick Bernstein and Ms. Anne Wellman

Also Present: Douglas Plowman, City Planner

**Approval of Minutes**

A motion by Ms. Murrell, seconded by Ms. Holmquist, for the approval of the minutes of March 11, 2020 carried with no corrections.

**Appearances**

There were no appearances.

**Unfinished Business**

**A. Discussion and Potential Acceptance of 706 W Dean Avenue Landmark Documentation**

Planner Plowman shared that with the State Historical Society being closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic he was unable to gather materials on the properties at 4500 and 5805 Winnequah Road. The materials for 706 W Dean were included in the packet for consideration and potential action. A request had been made of a potential honorary designation for the property given some concerns over the historical integrity of the property. The City Attorney has strongly advised against this given there isn't a specific provision for this in the Historic Preservation Ordinance.

A motion was made by Ms. Murrell, seconded by Ms. Holmquist, to accept the Landmark Documentation for 706 W Dean Avenue.

The motion carried.

**New Business**

**A. Discussion of 4123 Monona Drive – Monona Landmark Property**

The Commission requested this be the next property discussed at their March meeting. Materials included in the packet were those from the previous Certificate of Appropriateness application. Chair Schilling stated that a lot of changes seem to have occurred fairly recently. Ms. Murrell raised the discrepancy in year built information between the booklet and the determination of eligibility. The dates ranged from 1888 to 1893. The Commission asked that this be investigated, and suggested contacting Ann Waidelich. Ms. Murrell added that she had wondered if it was the oldest extant home in Monona, but that is the Nichols Farm. Ms. Weix added it may be the oldest lake front property.

Discussion turned to if it was a historic property or historic site. Ms. Holmquist added that the garden and surrounding area were important to the property, especially the Norbertine's. Planner Plowman added that this is listed as one parcel within the assessment data, so that may assist in that decision. Ms. Murrell raised that there may be Native American remains and artifacts on site, although it is not known. Ms. Holmquist added it's proximate to other Mounds so she wouldn't doubt it. Planner Plowman suggested possible remains could be mentioned as part of the

application. Ms. Weix suggested it could be added later when more information is known for certain.

The Commission discussed the architectural significance of the property. Ms. Holmquist shared that architecturally what is remaining isn't eligible, but the Norbertine's history with the property is key, as is the association with Frank Allis. It was shared that there are many interior photographs in newspapers and online that can be included. Ms. Murrell added that this isn't just a farmhouse, it was much grander than that. It was designed for entertaining. Site location and situation is also critical. Ms. Weix added that although the architecture has changed, it is still recognizable and distinctive in the area from both the street and the lake. Ms. Holmquist added that the original windows and doors still remain, making it recognizable to older photographs. Chair Schilling asked about the fireplaces shown in photographs, and consensus was that they still remain although they may be damaged.

**B. Discussion of Historic Preservation Month – Monona Walking Tour**

Planner Plowman discussed that the Commission had hoped to celebrate Historic Preservation Month by dedicating the Monona Mound Marker. In discussion with Chair Schilling the idea came to mind of a self-guided walking tour of the locally landmarked properties. There is a hand drawn map from 2011, as well as an interactive map on the website. The existing map is usable, and there will be a few design changes to enhance usability. Planner Plowman suggested this be included as an announcement on the website. Ms. Murrell suggested that given the distance it could be a walking or biking tour as May is also National Biking Month. Promotion will be included on the website, WVMO, as well as a press release which can be shared with the Herald Independent.

**C. Staff Updates**

**i. Springhaven Pagoda and Stone Bridge Park**

Planner Plowman shared an update on the Stone Bridge Park with the Commission. Discussions continue internally regarding stormwater management at the park, and there are potential opportunities for improvements to be made to the Pagoda at the same time. He asked for direction from the Commission for next steps on the Pagoda. Ms. Holmquist shared that it was to be cast concrete, with as close to replacement as possible. Planner Plowman will draft an RFP for consideration at the June meeting assuming the existing scan can be used for bid purposes.

**ii. Certified Local Government Grant – Nominations to National Register**

Planner Plowman shared that the MOA was approved at the May 4<sup>th</sup> City Council meeting. An RFP will be prepared for consideration at the next Commission meeting. We have interested consultants provided by the State Historical Society, and it is expected that applications will be open for a month. Further discussion of the Grant and review criteria will take place at the next meeting.

**Upcoming meetings**

Upcoming meetings are scheduled for June 10, 2020 and July 8, 2020.

**Adjournment**

A motion by Ms. Holmquist, seconded by Ms. Murrell, to adjourn carried. (5:39pm)

Submitted by,

Doug Plowman, City Planner