

MINUTES  
City of Monona  
Landmarks Commission  
Wednesday August 11, 2021

Chair Goforth called the meeting of the Monona Landmarks Commission to order at 4:34 PM.

Present: Chair Kristie Goforth, Mr. John Chapman, Ms. Anne Wellman and Ms. Rebecca Holmquist

Absent: Ms. Peggy Michaelis, Ms. Branda Weix and Mr. Rick Bernstein

Also Present: Douglas Plowman, City Planner and Patrick Eagan, One Design & Engineering

**New Business**

**A. Site Visit to Stone Bridge Park to Review Springhaven Pagoda Existing Conditions (4227 Winnequah Road)**

The Commission met at Stone Bridge Park to review the existing condition of the Springhaven Pagoda. A larger park project is underway in Stone Bridge Park, and the Pagoda roof replacement project is a separate contract undertaken by the contractor. It has been brought to City Planner Plowman's attention that the condition of the Pagoda columns and foundation is in much worse condition than first expected.

Mr. Eagan, the Project Engineer who had developed the plans for the roof replacement was on-site to answer any questions that should arise from the Commission. The Commission reviewed the current condition of the foundation, columns, connection to the roof beam and the roof. Chair Goforth and Ms. Holmquist both had concerns about how the columns were connected to the foundation, and how this could impact the structural integrity of the rest of the structure. Alternative measures were also discussed with Mr. Eagan including patch repairs and their durability and aesthetics. There was general consensus from the Commission that this would be a limited-term fix and have a detrimental impact on aesthetics. Commission members were also concerned about the possibility of public access once the park construction is complete, as well as the possibility of further damage or liability concerns for the City given the current condition.

*The Commission adjourned from Stone Bridge Park at 4:55 PM and reconvened at the City Hall Conference Room at 5:10 PM.*

**Approval of Minutes**

A motion by Ms. Holmquist, seconded by Mr. Chapman, for the approval of the minutes of July 14, 2021 carried with no corrections.

**Appearances**

None.

**Unfinished Business**

None.

**New Business**

**A. Discussion and Possible Recommendation to Monona City Council Regarding the Springhaven Pagoda Roof Replacement Project**

City Planner Plowman provided an overview of the project timing for both the Stone Bridge Park project, as well as the Pagoda roof repair. These are both being conducted by the same

contractor, although contract delays meant the park project began before the Pagoda roof could be removed. This ultimately allowed the Pagoda foundation to be exposed, and for the structural issues to be shown. These items were not outlined in the 2016 Historic Preservation Plan.

The Commission agreed that patching the existing structure would have limited success, and would negatively impact the aesthetics. Ms. Wellman asked about the footings and foundation. The methods used for the current Pagoda are not how they would be done today. It was agreed that this is one area that a possible redesign could improve. There was further discussion of the City's liability once the park reopens. Fencing will not deter those who wish to inspect the Pagoda, and it poses a safety to the general public in its current condition. Ms. Holmquist added that she thinks this should be taken out. She would request a structural report or opinion from Mr. Eagan, which could be included as supplemental information for future meetings and requests. She added a discussion of a reconstruction or replacement could take place in the coming months, as well as using the opportunity to gauge public opinion on the new design. Ms. Wellman asked that notice be placed in the Herald Independent to alert the public.

A motion was made by Ms. Wellman and seconded by Mr. Chapman to halt further action on roof replacement and recommend termination of the Springhaven Pagoda Roof Replacement Project to the Monona City Council as well as possible removal of the Pagoda while equipment is on site. It was added that a structural report should be included as part of the due diligence process, and discussion should continue for reconstruction of a replacement with the public.

The motion carried unanimously.

## **B. Staff Updates**

### **i. National Register Nomination Update**

City Planner Plowman shared that an extension to the CLG grant funding was granted by the National Park Service. The Aro home has been deemed eligible, and the City is currently awaiting final owner approval.

### **ii. Updates/Discussion on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Efforts**

City Planner Plowman shared that Ms. Delaney's correspondence from the July meeting was shared with City leadership as it relates to Indigenous People's Day and Native American Heritage Month. Chair Goforth discussed the precautionary fencing at San Damiano which has been installed. She also shared that the Ad-Hoc DEI Committee has met once so far, with their second meeting on August 19<sup>th</sup>. They will likely meet twice monthly, with a 6-month term.

## **C. Landmarks Commission Requests for City Staff**

Ms. Holmquist asked that the list of potentially eligible properties for nomination to the National Register be shared with the Commission by email for reference.

### **Upcoming meetings**

Upcoming meetings are scheduled for September 8, 2021 and October 13, 2021

### **Adjournment**

A motion by Ms. Wellman, seconded by Ms. Holmquist, to adjourn carried. (5:35pm)

Submitted by,

Douglas Plowman, City Planner