

MINUTES  
City of Monona  
Landmarks Commission  
Wednesday August 12, 2020

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

Present: Chair Kristie Goforth, Ms. Branda Weix, Ms. Mary Murrell, Ms. Anne Wellman, and Ms. Rebecca Holmquist

Absent: Mr. Rick Bernstein and Mr. Erik Lincoln

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 July 8, 2020 carried with one correction.

**Appearances**

There were no appearances.

**Unfinished Business**

**A. Discussion and Possible Action for National Register Educational Event and National Register Nomination RFP**

Planner Plowman provided an overview of the July 22<sup>nd</sup> event in partnership with the Wisconsin State Historical Society. 5 or 6 properties were represented at the meeting, with a decent Q&A after the presentation. The meeting was recorded and uploaded to the City's YouTube page. The link to this, as well as the presentation and original Historical Survey report are linked on the City website. The owners of 4811 Tonyawatha expressed their interest at the meeting in being listed. The owners of the Habitat Restore are also interested (subject to Board approval). Representatives from the School District and the Charles Fix House were also in attendance.

Ms. Anne Wellman and Ms. Branda Weix joined the meeting.

It was raised that there was interest from homeowners in the possible Frost Woods Historic District for individual nomination. Planner Plowman solicited feedback from the Commission for individual nominations in the possible district. Chair Goforth was in favor of the Frost Woods homes being individually eligible. Ms. Murrell asked if there was interest or support for landmarking local properties outside of the National Register framework as well. Ms. Murrell added her disappointment that so few were interested. Ms. Holmquist shared a couple of homes in the Frost Woods district that may be interested. Ms. Weix hopes that beginning the process can set a positive precedent for others to follow.

Ms. Murrell discussed the text of the RFP that was included in the packet. The properties to be included were discussed, where the draft only included a placeholder. It was agreed that itemized costs for each of the properties would be the best way to proceed. The Commission consensus was that they would like to see both of the school properties listed as part of the process, and recommended contacting the Superintendent directly. It was agreed that another RFP could follow should others show interest at a later date and funding is still available.

A motion was made by Ms. Holmquist, seconded by Ms. Murrell, to issue the National Register Nomination RFP as proposed with the interested properties included.

The motion carried.

**B. Discussion and Possible Action for Springhaven Pagoda Roof Repair RFP and Stone Bridge Park Walkway**

Planner Plowman updated the Commission on the status of the RFP and that we now have a consultant who can assist in developing the RFP to get the most accurate bids from interested parties. A previous estimate for this work was \$2,500, along with construction supervision billed hourly, which could be taken from the Pagoda budget item from a couple of years ago which still has funding in it. The digital model is ready, and it is hoped that a more specific RFP will generate more realistic bids.

Ms. Murrell asked for clarification on the RFP, and the cost estimates for the roof replacement. Chair Goforth responded that she would love to see the roof repaired. Ms. Wellman shared that she thought it was a good deal. Ms. Murrell added that it could move the project along, Chair Goforth expects that it will generate a better idea of costs for replacement.

A motion was made by Ms. Murrell, seconded by Ms. Wellman, to proceed with the preparation of the Pagoda RFP by Patrick Eagan.

The motion carried.

The walkway was a second discussion item as it pertains to the redesign of Stone Bridge Park at the request of Alder Wood of the Parks Board. The question was if there should be a walkway to the Pagoda as part of the park design. Ms. Holmquist added that this had been discussed and consensus was that the Commission wanted it. Planner Plowman provided an update to the broader park design, with a special meeting being called by Parks Director Anderson. There is no park design currently circulating, and the request was if a new walkway should connect to the Pagoda. Ms. Holmquist added that previous designs had a retaining wall put back in with the walkway to help address flooding. Planner Plowman has shared the Commission's will for the retaining wall to be included, and for flooding concerns to be addressed during the engineering process.

Ms. Holmquist asked if the Commission's intent was for the walkway to go around the Pagoda. Chair Goforth was unsure if there was enough space between the property line to the south. Ms. Holmquist responded that the original walkway was buried from the flooding. She thought the original intent was to clear the material from the walkway. Planner Plowman repositioned Alder Wood's question as to if the Commission wanted a walkway of some sort, or if they would prefer the Pagoda be inaccessible. Ms. Holmquist asked if they were referencing the 2016 Preservation Plan. Planner Plowman responded that they have seen it, and he is referencing the photos, the slope behind the pagoda, as well as the existing conditions. Ms. Weix shared that she was concerned that the Commission would have limited input to a plan as it is released to the public. Ms. Wellman agreed, that the park holds a landmark, and the Commission should have input alongside the Parks Board, which it was shared is the case. It was also asked if the park or the pagoda were the landmark. There was discussion, but the previous documentation and discussion was that the pagoda and immediate vicinity were the landmark, not the entire park. The Commission agreed that a walkway was necessary, and this feedback will be shared with Alder Wood.

**C. Discussion and Potential Action for Donation to Historic Blooming Grove Historical Society Back Porch Renovation Fund**

An update was provided by Planner Plowman regarding the possible donation. This was discussed at the last meeting, where a \$100 donation from the Commission was identified. The

question had been raised as to whether this should come from the Commission or the City as a whole. The City's Finance Director responded that the only donation made by the City is the Monona Memorial Parade. Any donation from the City would need to be voted on by City Council. The request came to Chair Goforth as she was the Chair of the Landmarks Commission. She is happy to take it to Council if this is the will of the group. Ms. Holmquist asked how the Landmarks Commission budget works. Planner Plowman shared that the budget item is specified as "Landmarks Supplies", and this donation could be eligible from that account. Ms. Murrell added that she doesn't think the Commission is the best entity to support this request. The back porch is a venue and it benefits the City of Monona and its residents. Ms. Wellman added that a donation sends a positive message to the public. If the City wants to encourage people to take interest in the history this is a way to provide support. Planner Plowman will work with City Administrator Gadow to add this to an upcoming City Council agenda.

### **New Business**

#### **A. Discussion of City of Monona Mounds and their Local or National Designation**

Ms. Murrell had emailed Planner Plowman and Chair Goforth regarding the possible archaeological survey of Monona Mounds that was a recommendation of the Mead & Hunt study. She asked if the Panther Mound should be pursued for National Register nomination given the others in Monona are. Ms. Holmquist shared that the previous owners were interested, but that the private owner has to approve. Ms. Murrell added that there are new owners as the house has recently sold and now seems like a good time to think about it. Ms. Holmquist shared that she thought the Historical Society contacted the previous owners to explore the possibility. Ms. Weix added that the mound is not intact, as the tail is missing. Planner Plowman will contact the State Archaeologist and mention the new ownership, expecting they will have next steps. Chair Goforth asked if the City had ever requested the Cultural Resource Maps from the State. Planner Plowman was not aware of these or if the Commission had seen them. Chair Goforth had requested the Winnequah Road Mound Group and she was sent the Monona Mound Group map digitally.

#### **B. Staff Updates**

##### **i. Monona Mound Marker**

Planner Plowman updated the Commission that the marker was set in place with a small unveiling taking place. This was picked up in the Herald Independent, and a copy of the story was included in the packet. In addition, Mr. Bernstein added this to the database of State Markers so others will be able to find it.

##### **ii. Stone Bridge Park Improvements**

Planner Plowman is working with Parks Director Anderson to coordinate a special meeting to discuss Stone Bridge Park plans. This is tentatively set for August 26<sup>th</sup>, although once a formal date is set this will be shared with the Commission.

### **Upcoming meetings**

Upcoming meetings are scheduled for September 9, 2020 and October 14, 2020.

### **Adjournment**

A motion by Ms. Weix, seconded by Ms. Wellman, to adjourn carried. (5:48pm)

Submitted by,

Doug Plowman, City Planner