

MINUTES
City of Monona
Landmarks Commission
Wednesday February 10, 2021

Chair Goforth called the meeting of the Monona Landmarks Commission to order at 4:32 PM.

Present: Chair Kristie Goforth, Ms. Mary Murrell, Mr. Rick Bernstein, Ms. Anne Wellman, and Ms. Rebecca Holmquist

Absent: Mr. Erik Lincoln and Ms. Branda Weix

Also Present: Douglas Plowman, City Planner

Approval of Minutes

A motion by Mr. Bernstein, seconded by Ms. Murrell, for the approval of the minutes of January 13, 2021 carried with no corrections.

Appearances

There were no appearances.

Unfinished Business

A. Discussion of Maintenance Projects for the Springhaven Pagoda in addition to the Stone Bridge Park Improvements.

Planner Plowman introduced the agenda item following discussion at the last meeting. Ms. Weix had suggested discussing improvements to the Pagoda outside of the upcoming parks project and the roof reconstruction. Depending upon their scale they may need a separate budget request, so discussing them early would make sense. This could also be an opportunity to develop draft text for the Pagoda sign as suggested by Parks Director Anderson at the last meeting. The work to the base of the Pagoda may necessitate a budget request depending upon scale and cost of the project. Mr. Bernstein responded that the Commission is looking for a stone mason familiar with working with archaic materials. It would be important to have a skilled craftsman who knows how to use the appropriate mortar for this task. Chair Goforth asked if Mr. Bernstein knows anybody in the area that may be suitable. Mr. Bernstein offered to investigate and seek out contractors that may be able to do this.

Planner Plowman asked about the scheduling of this potential work. His understanding was that this would be a finishing piece, rather than occurring during the park reconstruction. Mr. Bernstein responded that it could make sense to repair the stone after excavation, and before backfill is placed. Chair Goforth asked if there was an ideal level, and Mr. Bernstein responded that the historic level (where the cut stone path is) would be his preference. Ms. Holmquist responded that her understanding was that the excavation could not go that low again because of lake levels, but that the park plan included a stepping stone path around the base. Ms. Holmquist added that it would make sense to conduct an RFP after the grade is set, so the extent of the project is better known. Mr. Bernstein asked about the coordination between contractors, and where the Pagoda project fits with the larger park project. Planner Plowman responded that there will be a lot of coordination between contractors, and City Staff to economize tasks and move forward effectively. Mr. Bernstein asked about City funds that are budgeted for the Pagoda. Planner Plowman responded that there is an existing budget line item that has at least \$5,000 remaining. There is another line item in the Stone Bridge Park budget for Pagoda roof repair. This will be better known once bids come in for the Pagoda roof.

There was discussion of the Pagoda sign and how best to generate the content. Ms. Wellman suggested asking Parks Director Anderson for examples to see the format he would like to pursue and a possible word count. Planner Plowman suggested that the Commission develop the text and images they have in mind, and cut it back to best fit the layout limitations. It was suggested that this be drafted between meetings, and edited at an upcoming meeting. Ms. Wellman suggested contacting Anne Waidelich at HBGHS for input. Ms. Holmquist added that Ray Krizmanic would be another good resource. Planner Plowman will also share paper documentation that he has in his office at City Hall with Ms. Wellman. Mr. Bernstein will research images for the sign, and what could be chosen. Chair Goforth raised the possibility of discussing the Native History of the site. Ms. Wellman suggested this could be included in the timeline and images on the sign. Ms. Holmquist responded that the sign is specifically about the Pagoda, and there was discussion of connections between the Pagoda and the Native History of the Park. It was agreed that more information may be available in Ray's documentation.

New Business

A. Discussion of Recommendations from 2019 Mead & Hunt Architectural Survey for Future Preservation Activities

Chair Goforth introduced this discussion item that was proposed by Ms. Murrell. It was suggested that the 2019 Survey outlined additional items that may be important to the Commission. Chair Goforth asked if the existing funding could be used for this, or if additional funding could be pursued. Mr. Bernstein responded that CLG grants can't be rolled over. Planner Plowman outlined opportunities that currently exist to spend the remaining \$17,500 of grant funding. Both Schwenn's Service and the Panther Mound National Register nominations are possible opportunities to use the grant. Signage or plaques are another opportunity, that he will check with the SHPO. There are other opportunities from the Survey, but there is need to check they are eligible expenses, and timeline may become an issue. It's a great place to look for future priorities and pursue subsequent funding.

Mr. Bernstein discussed the opportunity to do some archaeological investigation and planning. It may make sense to have somebody from the State discuss archaeological opportunities in Monona. It was shared that the State do not receive many grant requests for archaeological work, so it can often stand out if it's a good proposal. This could assist those looking to construct in areas that are believed to have archaeological significance. Mr. Bernstein will invite the Assistant State Archaeologist to the March meeting to discuss further. A letter of interest would be needed by September signaling intent to apply for a CLG grant.

Ms. Murrell asked Mr. Bernstein what his opinion was of the water based architectural survey. He responded that he wasn't sure what the other vantage point would get you of the properties given they have been surveyed from the street. He sees some benefit, but is unsure if he'd make a priority of it. Ms. Murrell asked what their recommendation of developing a "context of the International Style in Monona". Mr. Bernstein responded that it provides an overview of the style within either the context of the City or State. Ms. Holmquist was unsure of the purpose of the context given the existing documentation that already exists on the topic. It was discussed that you could hire somebody to develop a context, or alternatively you can develop something yourself. There was discussion of where and how this type of document could be showcased. Ms. Murrell would be willing to support the idea and how she could assist. Mr. Bernstein will contact Jim Draeger, former SHPO, who lives in an International Style home and discuss initial steps.

The possibility of conducting oral histories was raised by Chair Goforth. Ms. Holmquist responded that there were histories conducted as part of the 75th anniversary events. Chair Goforth will contact the Library Director to ask what documentation he has. This could present an opportunity to discuss properties with their original owners, even if they chose not to pursue

National Register nomination. There is the opportunity for meetings via Zoom to allow for interviews to occur during current COVID restrictions. Planner Plowman suggested that this could align with Historic Preservation Month. It could be the organizing effort to gather people interested in the topic.

B. Discussion of National Register Nomination Promotional Video in partnership with Monona Community Media

Chair Goforth had discussed this possibility with Community Media, and they currently have limited capacity. With school opening back up, there may be more students on hand to assist with the work going forward. Chair Goforth will raise this again at the February meeting of the Community Media Committee. Planner Plowman had spoken with Mr. Heggland regarding the possibility, and he was in support of the request. There may still be an opportunity in the late Spring to work on this and assist in promotion of the National Register effort. Ms. Holmquist added that this could time well with Historic Preservation Month in May. It was discussed that this could be an ongoing effort, gathering film throughout the process. This could also help spread the workload for Community Media.

C. Staff Updates

i. CLG National Register Update

Planner Plowman updated the Commission that both consultants have signed contracts and are underway. He also heard back from the owner of the Panther Mound. They are still thinking about the option, and Plowman will follow up again shortly. Planner Plowman also discussed a request that came in from the Herald Independent for more information on the existing National Register Mound's. He asked if there were any more materials the Commission may look to add. Ms. Holmquist responded that the oral histories may be a good resource. Ms. Murrell added that Bob Birmingham's book has a chapter on Wisconsin Mounds and includes a lot of information on Monona Mounds. Ms. Wellman has some materials that were donated to the Historical Society, and will go through those for information.

ii. Springhaven Pagoda RFP

Patrick Eagan is discussing the Pagoda RFP directly with vendors, both that he knows and those in the Preservation Plan. This will also be posted in the usual way that RFP's are on the City website. The RFP will be posted Thursday, February 11 and the site visit for interested parties will be on Friday, February 26. It is hoped that by the next meeting there will be responses to review and a clearer picture at the March Landmarks Meeting.

D. Landmarks Commission Requests for City Staff

None.

Upcoming meetings

Upcoming meetings are scheduled for March 10, 2021 and April 14, 2021.

Adjournment

A motion by Ms. Murrell, seconded by Mr. Bernstein, to adjourn carried. (5:29pm)

Submitted by,

Doug Plowman, City Planner