

MINUTES  
City of Monona  
Landmarks Commission  
Wednesday October 9, 2019

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

Present: Chair Jennifer Kuhr, Mr. Rick Bernstein, Ms. Anne Wellman, Mr. Erik Lincoln, and Ms. Branda Weix

Absent: Ms. Mary Murrell, and Ms. Rebecca Holmquist

Also Present: Douglas Plowman, City Planner

**Approval of Minutes**

A motion by Mr. Bernstein, seconded by Ms. Weix, for the approval of the minutes of September 11, 2019 carried with one correction.

**Appearances**

There were no appearances.

**Unfinished Business**

**A. Monona Mound Marker**

**I. Consideration of Action for potential donation of old marker and stone to the Historic Blooming Grove Historical Society**

Mr. Bernstein shared that Ms. Ann Waidelich, the curator for the Historic Blooming Grove Historical Society has asked if the Commission would be willing to donate the old marker for display on the grounds of the Dean House. Mr. Bernstein shared that Ms. Waidelich has done a lot of research on the topic, and he feels it would be a good location for it. Ms. Weix asked where the marker is currently being held, Planner Plowman responded that it is in storage at the Department of Public Works garage.

A motion was made by Mr. Bernstein, seconded by Ms. Weix to recommend the City donate the old Monona Mound marker to the Historic Blooming Grove Historical Society.

The motion carried 4-0.

**II. Consideration of Action regarding the location of the new Monona Mound Marker**

Planner Plowman asked the Commission where they would like the new marker to be located. Mr. Bernstein shared that the previous marker was located in the right of way, but that he felt the new marker would be best located in the grass area behind the retaining wall. Chair Kuhr added that it would not be appropriate to locate the marker on the mound itself. Ms. Weix suggested that it would be great if a news article and photograph could accompany the placement. Planner Plowman suggested that either the November or December Landmarks Commission meeting could be held on site allowing for the Commission to see the new placement. No action was taken at this time.

## **B. Consideration of Action concerning State Historical Society grant application**

Planner Plowman updated the Commission on the status of the application. The Letter of Intent was submitted, and Mr. DeRose of the State Historical Society responded that preparing a letter to gauge property owner interest would be a good next step. It was felt that this may be too soon to send the letter out, but that a drafted letter would be a good addition to the application.

Ms. Weix shared that she thought pursuing the Frost Woods Historic District was a mistake at this point. There are 120 homes in the District, and the Commission has no experience with this process. She thought it would be more prudent to pursue single property designation at this time. Mr. Bernstein has contacted local consultants who do this type of work, and shared cost estimates with the Commission. The estimates show that with full grant funding significant progress could be made, with estimates ranging from \$2,500 to \$5,000 per property. He highlighted the importance of getting property owner support, and that the Society like to know there is support before issuing funding.

Chair Kuhr added that this could potentially be completed in two phases. The first could focus on the individual properties, with the second being the District. Mr. Bernstein added that Mr. DeRose preferred the District, and that the Society see greater value in the District. Ms. Weix added that it could be possible to begin educating the idea of the District through the Frost Woods Homes Association. It was felt that individually designating "Bungalows" could provide some impetus for the District. Chair Kuhr shared an email from Ms. Holmquist where she voiced her support for the District. The reasoning was that it covers more properties, and would include multiple properties that were referenced individually.

Mr. Bernstein shared that for the District to be approved then greater than 50% of the homes would have to not object. He added that his opinion was that it was probably best to be cautious and to take these properties incrementally. Ms. Weix added that there is political sensitivity towards the potential sidewalks and improvements planned along Winnequah Road. Any potential Historic District could become interlocked with this discussion.

Consensus from the Commission was that it would be helpful to begin broader public education and engagement efforts well in advance of potential District designation. This could include public meetings, and engaging multiple stakeholder groups. Ms. Wellman added that having a property within the District that has gone through the designation helps make the case to their neighbors. Mr. Lincoln added that the HOA could help with messaging, Ms. Weix concurred that the newsletter and annual meeting could be useful avenues.

A motion was made by Ms. Weix, seconded by Mr. Bernstein, to apply for maximum grant funding (\$25,000) from the State Historical Society for the purpose of designating individual properties recommended in the 2019 Intensive Survey. The Frost Woods District will not be pursued at this time.

The motion carried 4-0.

## **New Business**

### **A. Discussion of items for future agenda.**

#### **I. Historic Preservation Ordinance**

Discussion of the Historic Preservation Ordinance, and specifically the records for currently landmarked properties continued. For properties, relevant property files will be shared with the Commission ahead of a meeting, as well as a designation application form. Ms. Weix suggested starting with one property per meeting. Chair Kuhr added that this is a discussion of the properties, to formalize documentation, and is not taking an

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additional action. Ms. Wellman added this is a review and standardization for the Commission.

**II. Update on Springhaven Pagoda and Stone Bridge Park**

Chair Kuhr shared that there is a potential donor interested in funding improvements to the Pagoda. Stone Bridge Park improvements are moving forward, and she is keen for the Landmarks Commission to have a seat at the table. It was suggested that a joint meeting with the Parks and Recreation Board would be a good idea. In response to Commission questions, it was decided that the current plans should be shared with the Commission, and to add this as an agenda item at next month's meeting.

**Upcoming meetings**

Upcoming meetings are scheduled for November 13, 2019 and December 11, 2019.

**Adjournment**

A motion by Mr. Bernstein, seconded by Ms. Wellman, to adjourn carried. (5:26pm)

Submitted by,

Doug Plowman, City Planner