

LANDMARKS COMMISSION

Minutes

October 11, 2018

Members Present: Mary Pat Lytle, Ron Larson, Gordon Kinder, Kathy Krusiec, Virginia Nichols
Members Absent: None
Staff Present: Pauline Boness, Karen Knoll

1. CALL TO ORDER

Lytle called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Kinder moved to approve the May 3, 2018 minutes, Nichols seconded the motion. Motion carried.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

Larson explained previously he has done a walking tour of McFarland. He is considering doing a possible program at the library early next year and wanted to see if the Commission had any feedback. Commissioners concurred they felt it is a wonderful idea.

Krusiec inquired at the past meeting it was stated Building Inspector Marty Pilger would be more visible and attending the meetings, she was questioning the status. Lytle advised Pilger is retiring. Commissioners wanted updates on the condition of the Schneider property, the former bank at 5906 Main Street. Kinder inquired about the condition of the McFarland Tavern property at 5915 Exchange Street, as there are bricks falling off it. Lytle inquired if Pilger had looked at the properties since the last meeting. Boness replied she had John Griffith, the Code Enforcement Officer look at the Schneider property, he wrote a letter to the owner, who resides in California. Boness has had some people inquire about purchasing the property, and she has referred them to the owner. No one has had any response from the owner. Boness will conform a lack of response with Griffith, and will confer with Village Attorney.

Lytle updated Commissioners regarding the questions on the status of the McFarland House Café moving forward with what had been approved. Lytle advised she spoke with Shaun O'Hearn the owner and he indicated he is not going to do anything until the ordinance regarding outdoor drinking is brought back and something is done with it one way or another. Lytle advised the most recent information she has on the potential ordinance is, nothing will likely happen this year. Lytle stated O'Hearn does not seem to want to do the improvements unless the ordinance is changed. Lytle stated there were many issues, which came up at the public hearing, and she does not know the status of any change.

4. BUSINESS

- a. Discussion and possible recommendation to the Plan Commission and Village Board regarding necessary ordinance changes to sections 62-395,398 and 402 in order to be compliant with State Statutes regarding historic preservation ordinances.

Boness reviewed there was an application to be a certified community sent to the State Historical Society in approximately March of this year. After that, it was to be sent to the Department of the Interior. Boness advised she followed up with them in August to check on the status of the application and resubmitted some information, which they requested. Per the September 13th email in packets Boness found out other minor code changes were necessary. Village Attorney Dan Evans has drafted an Ordinance with revisions indicted rather than a 2/3 vote for approval of action items a majority vote is now required; and, rather than a class 2 notice it would only need a class 1 notice for hearings.

Kinder moved to recommend approval of ordinance changes to sections 62-395,398 and 402 to the Plan Commission and Village Board. Krusiec seconded the motion. Motion carried.

- b. Update on designating 5979 Siggelkow Road, Common Threads as a local historic structure.

Boness updated it was previously discussed designating this as a local historic site. Commissioners have emails in the packets pertaining to the conversation. Common Threads is not interested in going down that path at this time. They have different possibilities for the site, which they are working on. Boness followed up to check on the status and has yet to hear back. At this point, she would like to keep the conversation open with them, but take no action. They are currently on the National Registry. Larson explained some of the differences between being on the National and Local Registries.

5. ADJOURNMENT

Nichols moved to adjourn, Larson seconded the motion. Krusiec stated she would like to see at the next meeting a report back on the Schneider Property and the McFarland Tavern. Motion carried meeting adjourned at 3:51 p.m.