

LANDMARKS COMMISSION

Minutes

February 4, 2021

Members Present: Ron Larson, Gordon Kinder, Stephanie Brassington, Virginia Nichols, Kathy Krusiec

Members Absent:

Staff Present: Andrew Bremer, Andrew Day, Karen Knoll

1. CALL TO ORDER

Brassington called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

2. PUBLIC APPEARANCES

None.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Review and possible approval of the November 12, 2020 Landmarks Commission meeting minutes.

Motion by Kinder to approve the November 12, 2020 minutes, seconded by Larson.
Motion carried 5-0.

4. BUSINESS

- a. Discussion of potential future additional historic designations of properties.

Bremer summarized the discussion from the prior meeting. They were not going back to look at properties which did not make the list previously, if a property did not meet criteria then, they likely would not now, but they may start looking at other properties not on the walking tour after creating an evaluation form.

Bremer reviewed with Commissioners the new evaluation form he created, as provided in packets. Similar to the previous form, each committee member would fill out their own individual form and then there would be an average score created. Bremer indicated the Municipal Code provides four criteria for designating historic sites and structures and these have been integrated into the evaluation form. Bremer compared the new proposed form to the previous one, and how it would relate to a property in an evaluation process.

Bremer reviewed the previous 1990 scoring and cut offs to make the designation list. He does not feel structures or sites need a minimum total score as any one criteria could score excellent and that could be the determining factor to make it a historic structure or site.

Commissioners discussed options for the form, that it would be up to Commissioners to make a scoring decision on a property, third party resources, what other communities or the historical society may have or use as a guide along with what information historical society may have about a property. Commissioners discussed with Larson how the process worked when originally completed. Larson explained it was done mainly based on their own judgments, before they scored the properties the committee went around town with and architectural historian from the Wisconsin Historical Society who gave them information on each property but he didn't have any type of a guide or materials showing, for example, "this is a perfect example of a specific type of style". They basically listened to him and then as a committee went out on their own and as they were looking at a property discussed it and its historical importance. The properties were reviewed and scored on the committees own judgements. Commissioners mainly concurred they did not feel they had the expertise to score properties. Bremer suggested adding to the form that the Commission may engage an outside professional in the scoring and designating of a property. The goal is more to formalize the process before considering a request to evaluate a property, or if the Commission decided to review any properties.

Bremer reviewed the list of properties he pulled from assessor records based on when a property was likely built in the 1920-1929 range; removing those that were already reviewed as part of the walking tour in 1990.

Bremer did a virtual tour with Commissioners of some of the properties that came up, not to rate, but to give an idea as to what properties were built within that timeframe. Commissioners discussed how you look at a property, how they have been remodeled and how once a designation is made it starts other ordinance provisions on a property. Bremer advised that is something to keep in mind, is the effect warranted. There is the possibility of a historical marker without historical designation. There are other ways of recognizing something without historical designation; you can mark an area of historical significance.

Bremer summarized he will look into resources available in scoring of properties if they should ever have to in the future.

5. SCHEDULING NEXT MEETING DATE

Tentatively April 1, 2021

6. ADJOURNMENT

Nichols moved to adjourn, Kinder seconded the motion. Motion carried meeting adjourned at 3:56 p.m.