

LANDMARKS COMMISSION

Minutes

May 11, 2022

Members Present: Ron Larson, Gordon Kinder, Mike Flaherty

Members Absent: Kathy Krusiec

Staff Present: Andrew Bremer, Andrew Day, Karen Knoll, Kong Thao

1. CALL TO ORDER

Flaherty called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

2. PUBLIC APPEARANCES

None

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Review and possible approval of the October 7, 2021 Landmarks Commission meeting minutes.

Motion by Kinder to approve the October 7, 2021 minutes, seconded by Larson. Motion carried 3-0.

4. BUSINESS

- a. Commission introductions and discussion regarding the role of the Commission.

Bremer summarized the restructuring, which was approved by the Village Board, The roles, and duties of the Landmarks Commission are identified under Division 6, Historic Preservation of the McFarland Zoning Code and can be reviewed as needed by the Landmarks Commission.

- b. Discussion and possible action on a Certificate of Appropriateness application submitted by Urso Bros. LLC for exterior site improvements to 5979 Siggelkow Road.

Returning to agenda item 4(b) after taking item 4 (e)

Bremer reviewed the history of the application with Commissioners; Urso Brothers purchased this property with the intent of moving their offices to the site. There are other approvals in process, which are currently before the Plan Commission. Bremer reviewed the previous actions along with the ones currently pending. Bremer discussed the list of Urso's proposed site plan changes and improvements as included in packet with Commissioners.

Kevin Urso explained they are not looking to change anything on the exterior of the building, they are adding an ADA ramp on the structures addition. Urso discussed the parking lot and driveway improvements, which will they feel will make access safer to the property. Commissioners discussed the proposal and concurred there were no proposed changes to the exterior structure of the building, and the proposed changes would be an improvement.

Larson moved to approve a Certificate of Appropriateness on the application as submitted by Urso Bros. LLC for exterior site improvements to 5979 Siggelkow Road. Kinder seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

- c. Discussion regarding Commission Assistance and Mentoring Program (CAMP) training offered by the National Alliance of Preservation Commission, April 6th and 7th, 2022.

Larson indicated he recently attended a two-day online training conference put on by the National Alliance of Preservation Commission. Larson summarized there were basically five basic areas and reviewed them with Commissioners covering; Legal Basics, Design Review Standards and Guidelines, Meeting Procedures, Infill Design, and Public Outreach, per the information included in packets. Commissioners discussed the ideas from the training Larson attended.

- d. Discussion regarding the Village's new Historic Properties GIS Story Map.

Thao explained the new GIS story map with Commissioners, including where to find the link on the Village website, features of the site, mapping, how to use the site, along with showing how to locate a site while using the tool with Commissioners. There is a way to have a link to pertinent information about a specific the historical property. Commissioners also discussed having programs at the library regarding historical properties in McFarland, along with flyers and information promoting the new tool which is now available.

Members discussed having a meeting with the Historical Society to build a relationship. Bremer pointed out if they were to do a meeting they need to be mindful of proper notifications and the possibility of a quorum. Bremer noted either a non-quorum of Landmarks Commission members could meet informally with members of the Historical Society or a joint meeting could be scheduled with the Landmarks Commission/Historical Society Board.

- e. Discussion and possible action on a Certificate of Appropriateness application submitted by Shaun O'Hearn for side and rear yard fence improvements to 5923 Exchange Street.

Commissioners agreed to take this item first on the agenda due to O'Hearn appearing person.

Shaun O’Hearn – 5205 Linden Parkway, owner of the McFarland Café located at 5923 Exchange Street. O’Hearn indicated he is wishing to install fencing around the side and rear of the property to enable him to expand his liquor license for the property. O’Hearn reviewed his submittal for two types of fencing as provided in packets. O’Hearn advised along with the café on the first floor he has two air b’n’bs on the second floor, and is looking to bring in an arcade behind the ice cream parlor. The rear yard would be a way to encapsulate all of those businesses. He intends to keep as much green space as possible with the possibility of seating pods in the future with live entertainment, a pet and family friendly area.

Bremer summarized this area falls under three different areas of approval, the outdoor consumption area which is a separate application through the Public Safety Committee and the Village Board. This is for the Landmarks Commission to decide if the fence would be detrimental to the historic nature of the building. Bremer reviewed the types and styles of the two proposed fences as provided in packets with Commissioners. Commissioners discussed for the project, the proposed height of the rear fence, the concern of the style of the rear fence/wall appearing too modern in nature, the poured top of the proposed rear fence, and the timeline as it was felt in the past O’Hearn did not complete prior approved projects in a timely manner, taking over a year. Commissioners had questions on the required height for a fence in this situation. Bremer clarified the minimum requirement for the outdoor consumption standard is four feet for a fence; the building code states the fence can be taller as a commercial property. O’Hearn concurred the front fence did take him a bit of time to complete; he intends to start this project as soon as he has approval. He has no issues with the rear gabion fence being rock to the top without the poured concrete top.

Larson moved to approve a Certificate of Appropriations on an application as submitted by Shaun O’Hearn for side picket fence and rear yard gabion four-foot wall fence 5923 Exchange Street. Flaherty seconded the motion. Kinder wanted his concerns noted as to desiring a higher rear wall, and not in favor of the concrete top on the gabion wall. Motion carried 3-0.

5. SCHEDULING NEXT MEETING DATE

- a. To be determined

6. ADJOURNMENT

Kinder moved to adjourn, Larson seconded the motion. Motion carried meeting adjourned at 5:41 p.m.