

CITY OF MENASHA
Landmarks Commission
Council Chambers, 3rd Floor
140 Main Street, Menasha
June 8, 2016
DRAFT MINUTES

A. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order by Chairman Grade at 5:00 PM.

B. ROLL CALL/EXCUSED ABSENCES

LANDMARKS MEMBERS PRESENT: Ald. Marshall Spencer, Commissioners Tom Grade, Paul Brunette, Dean Wydeven and Samantha Zinth (5:08 PM).

LANDMARKS MEMBERS EXCUSED: Commissioner Shellie Caudill.

OTHERS PRESENT: AP Englebert, CDC Heim, Steve Krueger (943 Clovis Ave), Ald. Arnie Collier and Nicholas Jevne (1334 Mayer St).

C. MINUTES TO APPROVE

1. **Minutes of the April 13, 2016 Landmarks Commission Meeting**

Motion by Ald. Spencer, seconded by Comm. Brunette to approve the minutes of the April 13, 2016 Landmarks Commission meeting. The motion carried.

D. PUBLIC COMMENT ON ANY ITEM OF CONCERN ON THIS AGENDA OR ANY ITEM RELATED TO THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE LANDMARKS COMMISSION

No one spoke.

E. COMMUNICATIONS

1. None.

F. ACTION ITEMS

1. **Selection of 2016 Discover Historic Menasha Photo Contest Winner**

There were forty-five total entries with forty-two entries having all sixteen locations correctly identified. The commission conducted a random selection from among the correct responses, with the winner being Sue Ellen John of Menasha. Discussion ensued regarding amount of gift certificates and selection of businesses. City staff will collect the gift certificates which will be presented at the June 20, 2016 Common Council meeting. Motion by Comm. Brunette, seconded by Comm. Zinth to award Sue Ellen the following gift certificates as the grand prize: \$15.00 – Mihm's Charcoal Grill, \$30.00 – Star Anise, \$25.00 – WeatherVane and \$30.00 – Randall's Auto Body. The motion carried.

2. **Election of Officers**

Chairman Grade indicated he would like to step down as Chairman and would like to see new people in the officer positions. Motion by Comm. Grade, seconded by Comm. Wydeven to nominate Paul Brunette for Chairman and Samantha Zinth as Vice Chairman. Seeing there were no additional nominations, the nominations were closed. The motion carried by unanimous vote 5-0.

3. **Allocate Stone to Wild Apple Rear Façade**

Comm. Grade led the discussion on allocating stone from the former bank site to the Wild Apple for rear patio updates. The stone is located at the Public Works Facility. Comm. Grade indicated that he had discussions with Public Works Deputy Director Adam Alix regarding the storage of the stones. Many stones are chipped, rectangular blocks of limestone. The stone would be used to create a more cohesive look at the rear of the building and serve as a dividing point between private property and the newly reconstructed public walkway. Distributed at the meeting were some preliminary ideas on how the stone would be used.

AP Englebert indicated he would need to check with the city attorney regarding allocating stone which is city property for use on private property.

Motion by Comm. Zinth, seconded Comm. Wydeven to recommend to the Common Council allocation of stone to the Wild Apple rear patio improvement. The motion carried 4-0, Comm. Brunette abstained.

After general discussion, Comm. Zinth made and Comm. Grade seconded a motion to withdraw the original motion and to carry this item to the July meeting for proposal on how to allocate the stone and inform businesses located within the historic districts of potential use of the stone. The motion carried.

G. DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Tayco Street Bridge Museum 2016 Opening

AP Englebert indicated that the museum has been cleaned and is open Monday-Friday, 10:00 AM-10:00 PM and weekends 8:00 AM-Midnight during the boating season. Commissioners asked if there is a cleaning schedule for the museum, if it had been sprayed for spiders and indicated that one of the banners is torn. AP Englebert will check with Public Works Deputy Director Alix and report back to the commission next month. Comm. Brunette asked if any new information was available on the second tower. AP Englebert indicated it was presented as part of the Water Street corridor presentation at the last Common Council meeting. Comm. Brunette requested that the second tower be placed on the July agenda.

2. 167 Main Street - Vertigo

Comm. Brunette indicated that work is being done on the east façade at 167 Main Street. Staff understands that the work is being done by the property owner. Comm. Brunette suggested that the Landmarks Commission reach out to the property owner to host an event at the building in hopes that a potential buyer may come forward. AP Englebert suggested that whatever event is planned be historic perseverance themed in nature. Comm. Brunette will reach out to property owner and requested that this item be placed on the July agenda.

3. Kiosk Historic Photos

Comm. Brunette asked if the Commission had any suggestions on placing real estate listings of available properties within the historic district in the kiosk on the corner of Main and Chute Streets. Discussion ensued on the idea of placing before and after photos of renovated historic district buildings in the kiosk. This would showcase the investment property owners are putting into historic district properties. Suggestion was to start with the Vertigo building. Comm. Brunette indicated he would contact the property owner to gauge interest.

H. PUBLIC COMMENT ON ANY ITEM OF CONCERN ON THIS AGENDA

Nichols Jevne, 1334 Mayer Street, the kiosk at Main and Chute Streets looking for ideas, perhaps the Historical Society would have some interest in placing historic photos there. If interested, the society should reach out to Community Development or Mayor's office.

Steve Krueger – 943 Clovis Avenue, came to meeting for the bridge tower museum item and is disappointed that only discussion was on cleaning and bug spraying. It was his opinion that no one goes in there and he would like to see the displays within the museum changed. He was hoping to hear about a plan to rejuvenate the museum. Also commented on the action item for allocating stone for private use. He asked if other businesses were offered these stones. Conflict of interest as member of the committee owns property that allocation is being given and the use of tax payer/city property on private property for private benefit.

Ald. Arnie Collier – 708 Appleton Street, suggested that before adjourning to button up the action item on allocating the stone and suggested that any ideas brought to the Common Council should show exactly how the stone will be used and should open up the use of the stone to more businesses. Has concerns regarding the bridge tower museum and he never sees anyone there. He also has concerns about the second tower.

Commissioners and members of the public continued open discussion on the following:

- Bridge Tower Museum: Comm. Wydeven asked Mr. Krueger if he had any specific

ideas for the bridge tower. Mr. Krueger indicated that he is a collector of Menasha artifacts. Mr. Krueger suggested things that would bring people back into the building including cultural and Menasha heritage items/artifacts are needed. Suggested changing the exhibit yearly. Mr. Krueger also gave the history of a group of citizens who proposed overseeing the museum to the Common Council. The proposal was not accepted by the Common Council. Ald. Marshall asked Mr. Krueger who and on what grounds the proposal was denied on. Ald. Marshall likes the idea and asked Mr. Krueger to forward him information on his proposal.

- Allocation of Stone: lengthy discussion ensued regarding the motion previously made and the lack of a plan to allocate the stone and make it available to all historic district properties. Comm. Brunette asked that the previous motion be reconsidered so that there are no questions about the intent. Commissions unanimously agreed to reconsider and indicated there should be a formal process in place for proposals to be submitted and every property within the historic districts should be notified that the stone is available.

I. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Comm. Grade, seconded by Comm. Wydeven to adjourn at 6:09 PM. The motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by CDC Heim.