



## HERITAGE PRESERVATION COMMISSION

JUNE 16, 2015 5:30 PM  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
ALBERT LEA CITY HALL  
ALBERT LEA MN

### Special Meeting Agenda

1. Call to Order/Approve Agenda
2. Approval of Minutes
  - a. Minutes April 15,2015
3. Public Hearings
  - a. None
4. Old Business
  - a. None
5. New Business
  - a. None
6. Commissioner Communications
7. Staff Communications/Items of Discussion
  - Post discussion- Historic Downtown Albert Lea Preservation Fair
  - Moving forward- Considering Main Street, Future Historic District Tours
  - Downtown News Letter- Quarterly
  - Historic District Identifying Signs
  - Dynamic Sign, FBB and out of date signs updates
  - Economic Benefits of Historic Preservation Presentation, Doug Johnson
8. Adjournment

Please contact the Inspection Department at 507-377-4340 If you need special accommodations related to a disability to attend this meeting

OR

IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO ATTEND THE MEETING

**MINUTES of April 15, 2015  
Heritage Preservation Commission  
City of Albert Lea**

The of the Albert Lea Heritage Preservation Commission and Planning Commission was called to order on Wednesday, April 15, 2015 at 11:55 a.m. by Chair Robert Hoffman. The meeting location was the City Hall Council Chambers, 221 E Clark St, Albert Lea, MN.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Robert Hoffman (Chair)  
Tom Larson  
Tami Staker  
Brad Kirchner  
Larry Baker- Ex Officio

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Rick Buringa  
Larry Fisher  
Lester Anderson

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Doug Johnson, Building Official  
Jennifer Nelson, Office Assistant

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Barb Rognes & Nick Rognes with Tic Toc Digital Printing Plus  
Tom Jensen- owner of business, Essence of Yoga located 136 S Broadway

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES:**

A motion was made by Tom Larson to approve the agenda and minutes from March 11, 2015 and Tami Staker seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously on a voice vote.

\*Note: The proposed Essence of Yoga signed was moved to the first item on the agenda to accommodate guests at this meeting.

**OLD BUSINESS:** None

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Proposal of wall sign for 136 S Broadway Ave, Essence of Yoga

Barb Rognes advised the old box backlit sign was removed. The new sign will be 19.5 x 31.375, which may include in the future three gooseneck lights to illuminate the sign. The photos of the proposed sign provided by Tic Toc Digital become part of these minutes by reference.

The HPC asked Tom Jensen if he planned on purchasing a new awning or doing anything with the awning. Jensen advised there is an existing awning and he believes it is operable, they may try to

crank it out and see how it looks. Jensen also advised the building is owned by George Ehrhardt and it would be up to him if he would want to do any building repairs or façade work to the building.

Tom Larson made a motion to approve the proposed sign for the Essence of Yoga and Tami Staker seconded the motion and was approved unanimously on a voice vote.

The current ordinance allows messages to change every 24 hours in the HP district. The council would like the commission to look at the proposed changes to the message duration and make a recommendation to the Planning Commission.

The proposed changes are as follows;

1. No change to the existing ordinance
2. Message duration change every 4 hours
3. Message duration change every 10 minutes

Doug Johnson advised the HPC and PC the City Council has directed city staff into looking at changing the sign ordinance regarding dynamic signs in the downtown. The ordinance currently allows a message change to occur every 24 hours. The theatre would like to shorten the time between messages and this would require an ordinance change.

Larry Baker advised he believe the HPC should proceed with caution. Doug Johnson advised the current sign is a dynamic sign although it is not acting as a dynamic sign. The sign looks historic and the message only changes once every 24 hours. Larry Baker also advised he has spoken to a few downtown business owners and they would be willing to sign an agreement they would not put up a dynamic sign. They are being supportive of the community theater being able to advertise their events.

Doug Johnson advised he spoke with Michael Koop with SHPO and he advised him to be careful as this can be a slippery slope down the road. This one decision would not affect the designation although it could leave open others to do the same.

It is not likely or cost effective for all the business to run out and purchase a dynamic sign due to the cost could run \$12,000 plus.

A motion was made by Brad Kirchner to propose recommendation to the planning commission for no change to the existing ordinance and Tom Larson seconded the motion and was approved unanimously on a voice vote.

**COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATIONS:** None

**STAFF COMMUNICATIONS:** Staff would like the HPC to take a look at signs that would identify the downtown historic district. There will be more discussion at the next scheduled meeting. Also there will be discussion on some concerns the group has for signs that have been left up for over the allowed six month period after the business closes that are not considered historical.

The next scheduled HPC meeting is set for June 9, 2015 at 5:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

A motion was made by Robert Hoffman and seconded by Tami Staker to adjourn the meeting at 12:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Doug Johnson, Building Official

Approved:

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Heritage Preservation Chair  
Robert Hoffman