

MINUTES of March 8, 2016
Heritage Preservation Commission
City of Albert Lea

Call to order 5:36 p.m. by Vice Chair Brad Kirchner

MEMBERS PRESENT

Brad Kirchner (Vice Chair)
Tom Larson
Lester Anderson
Larry Fisher
Tami Staker
Larry Baker (Ex-Officio)

MEMBERS ABSENT

Robert Hoffman (Chair)

STAFF PRESENT:

Molly Patterson-Lundgren, City Planner
Jennifer Nelson, Office Assistant

OTHERS PRESENT:

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES:

A motion was made by Larry Fisher to approve the agenda and seconded by Tami Staker. The agenda was approved unanimously on a voice vote.

A motion was made by Lester Anderson to approve the minutes from February 6, 2016 and seconded by Tom Larson. The minutes were approved unanimously on a voice vote.

PUBLIC HEARINGS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

Discussion on Ordinance vs. Design Guidelines

Molly Patterson Lundgren explained that City Code is locally adopted law while the design guidelines provide direction for making decisions, there is more discretion. Following the design standards will help guide the Heritage Preservation Commission through the design review process. Code trumps design guidelines.

Dave Klatt had called in to request the HPC look into offering historic markers for eligible buildings downtown. The HPC will keep this item on the agenda and will research guidelines for design and recommended location to hang the marker. The markers would need to follow state and local sign ordinances. The HPC will also discuss what information would be noted on the markers such as; year built, building name, original architectural style and brief description.

OLD BUSINESS:

100 Broadway Ave North, Alliance Benefit Group, awnings proposal for the color and design.

At the January 6, 2016 meeting, the HPC approved awnings for this property on the condition that details of the project would be brought back for final approval. ABG is proposing five 15' awnings for the west side of the building, one of which will include the address above the front door. Two 14'4" awnings on the south side of the building and 21 48" awnings covering the 2nd floor windows. The awnings will be taruque blue in color. The valance of the fixed awnings after hung shall be a minimum of 9' off the ground as to allow for equipment for snow removal off the sidewalks. The valances will project less than 48" as the windows are inset somewhat.

The commission discussed concerns brought forward by the City Engineer regarding awnings extending into the right of way. The City of Albert Lea Engineering Dept. measured six other store fronts awnings with which ranged from 8.6'-9.1' for clearance. The applicant has indicated they are willing to provide more than the 8' clearance required by ordinance.

This building is located in the DCD zoning district. Only one awning, canopy, or projecting sign is permitted for each site. An awning sign shall have only one face. The sign must be placed on the valance and shall not exceed 12 in. in height. All signs must be installed in accordance with the International Building Code and obtain a "certificate of appropriateness" from the historic preservation commission prior to submittal for a sign permit, if located in the National Commercial Historic District.

The awning above the door will include signage, Brad Kirchner stated ABG may put the address on the awning above the door. This will be something plain and simple looking.

A motion was made by Larry Fisher to approve the proposed awnings for 100 Broadway Ave N (ABG Building). The motion was seconded by Tami Staker. Motion approved on a 5-0 voice vote.

Molly Patterson-Lundgren gave an update on the 2017 State Historical Preservation Department Conference and CLG grant application.

Molly Patterson-Lundgren gave an update on the Small Cities Grant and the historic review requirements and processes if we receive the grant.

Jennifer Nelson discussed planning some training to provide building code and information regarding the design review processes for buildings located in the historic district to property owners, business owners and contractors. City staff would also like to provide training specific to the HPC

COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATIONS:

Brad Kirchner stated Scott Thompson owner of the Morlea Dairy Building located at 130 N Broadway Ave is looking at doing some work in the near future and may be interested in the Broadway Ridge Renewal Grant. Scott Thompson is concerned about what is underneath the awning/canopy and if the transoms are gone. Only way to find out is to take off it off and see what is underneath. Thompson will have to prioritize projects and salvage what is left.

2017 State Conference discussion;

Larry Baker advised the history of the American Gas and “Dress Island” may be an interesting topic for the conference.

Bev Jackson would be great with storytelling and the speaking of important events that shaped the history of Albert Lea.

Diamond Joes may want to help out with the cost of bussing if they would be able to advertise.

Tami Staker advised to keep Experience Albert Lea in the loop and they may be able to assist also.

STAFF COMMUNICATIONS/ITEMS OF DISCUSSION:

Election of officers:

Larry Fisher made a motion to appoint Brad Kirchner as Chair and Lester Anderson seconded the motion. The motion was approved on 4-0 a voice vote. (Brad Kirchner abstained)

Tami Staker made a motion to appoint Tom Larson as Vice Chair and Brad Kirchner seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously on a voice vote.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Tami Staker and seconded by Lester Anderson to adjourn the meeting at 7:44p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Molly Patterson-Lundgren, City Planner

Approved:

Heritage Preservation Vice Chair
Brad Kirchner