

MINUTES of April 12, 2016
Heritage Preservation Commission
City of Albert Lea

Call to order 5:34pm by Chairman Brad Kirchner

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

MEMBERS ABSENT

Larry Fisher
Robert Hoffman

STAFF PRESENT:

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

OTHERS PRESENT:

Ed & Kari Mason, owners 242 Broadway Ave S
Teresa McCormack, Urban Studios (Architect for Ed & Kari Mason)
Jason Howland-Representing Albert Lea Community Theater, 147 Broadway Ave N
Laurie Keith- Home Federal Bank, 143 Clark St W
Dan & Jodee Lestrud-Broadway Bike Company, 114 Broadway Ave S

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES:

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

A motion was made by Tami Staker to approve the minutes from March 8, 2016 and seconded by Lester Anderson. The minutes were approved unanimously on a voice vote.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Staff report prepared by Molly Patterson-Lundgren, Planner WSB & Associates, Inc. become part of these minutes by reference.

PUBLIC HEARING- 114 South Broadway Avenue, Bike Shop Sign

Daniel Lestrud is requesting a certificate of appropriateness for a new sign to be placed at 114 Broadway Ave S. Mr. Lestrud has opened up a bike shop, Broadway Bike Company. The new painted wood sign

would be placed in the location above the storefront windows where the Tone Music sign was previously located.

Public Hearing opened: 5:35pm

Brad Kirchner advised the proposed sign would fit well and ties in with the era. Brad also asked on behalf of Dan Lestrud if the existing retractable awning could also be approved at this meeting. Molly Patterson-Lundgren advised this would require another public hearing as it was not publicly advertised to include the awning.

Staff recommends approval.

Public Hearing closed: 5:40pm

Brad Kirchner motioned to approve the proposed signage indicated in the application dated March 1st 2016 for 114 South Broadway Whereas it meets local adopted design guidelines and Secretary of Interior Standards and does not adversely affect the historic nature of the site or downtown historic district, The Heritage Preservation Commission approves the Certificate of Appropriateness for the proposed painted wood sign. The motion was seconded by Tami Staker. Motion approved on a 5-0 roll call vote.

PUBLIC HEARING- 143 West Clark Home Federal Bank Sign

Home Federal is requesting new signage. The proposed signage is “channel letters” applied directly to the building façade on the North side of the building facing Clark and a second location applied to the permanent awning of the South side facing the parking lot.

Public Hearing open: 5:41pm

Staff recommends approval of the proposed signage based on the fact that the proposed Channel Letters are consistent with the era of the buildings mid-century modern style of architecture. This type of signage was present in Downton Albert Lea in the mid 1960’s and therefor the it is consistent with both the Secretary of Interior Standards and the locally adopted Design Guidelines for the downtown historic district.

Laurie Keith also advised and referenced discussion at the last meeting she attended the letters would be back light with canned l.e.d. lighting.

Laurie Keith advised this building was constructed in approximately 1956. Molly Patterson-Lundgren stated this building meets the 50 year mark allowing for consideration of it to be deemed a historic resource. This specific type of lit sign is appropriate for a building from this era and also the architectural design of the building.

Public Hearing closed 5:56pm

Tom Larson motioned to approve the proposed signage indicated in the application dated March 8th for Home Federal Bank at 143 W Clark Street. As it meets local adopted design guidelines and Secretary of Interior Standards and does not adversely affect the historic nature of the site or downtown historic

district, The Heritage Preservation Commission approves the Certificate of Appropriateness for the proposed lit canned letter wall signs on the south side of the building and one on the north side of the building as shown in the application. The motion was seconded by Brad Kirchner. Motion approved on a 5-0 roll call vote.

PUBLIC HEARING- 242 South Broadway Storefront alteration

Ed and Kari Mason, owners of 242 South Broadway are proposing to replace the first floor storefront of this currently vacant building. The second story arched windows and transom windows, replaced in the past would remain. The silver aluminum framed deeply recessed display windows and door components would be removed along with the existing bulkhead (the wooden area under the storefront windows). This would be replaced with a storefront closer to the front plane of the building comprised of bronze anodized aluminum. The two side display windows would be located on the front façade plane of the building with the center double door set back approximately 4-feet.

Public Hearing opened 5:59pm

Teresa McCormack, the Architect on the project started by saying the Ed & Kari Mason have already invested in a new roof for the building and windows on the upper portion of the building. The next step is to remove the aluminum and to make the building more flush with the sidewalk which will match the other storefronts appearance. The bronze will match the existing windows. They plan on keeping the store front green in color although when the building is leased depending on the tenant's preference it could be painted a different color. The front could be painted and would not have to be a permanent finished color.

Brad Kirchner reminded the group the intention is to bring the jewel back and advised every building should be looked at individually and buildings do not need to all look the same. Kirchner noted the many of the store fronts are using bronze anodized aluminum, which makes sense in this case as this will match the existing windows of the storefront. However, there are other options and he hopes to see more variety in the future.

Public Hearing closed 6:11pm

A motion was made by Brad Kirchner to approve a certificate of appropriateness for the proposed modifications at 242 South Broadway which meets the local adopted design guidelines and Secretary of Interior Standards with the proposed storefront windows & door pattern and does not adversely affect the historic nature of the site or downtown historic district. Therefore, The Heritage Preservation approves the Certificate of Appropriateness for the storefront proposed in the application design dated February 24th 2016. The motion was seconded by Tom Larson. Motion approved on a 5-0 voice vote.

Ed & Kari Mason plan on applying for the Broadway Ridge Renewal Grant and were advised to contact the City Manager's Office to start the process now that they have a Certificate of Appropriateness.

NEW BUSINESS: None

OLD BUSINESS:

Discussion on the digital marquee sign at the Marion Ross Performing Arts Center

Jason Howland, President of the Board of Directors for the Albert Lea Community Theater is asking if the dynamic sign on the north side of the Marion Ross Performing Arts Center could add a red and gold border. It has been in place for a little over a year now; when the sign was initially set up it had some color to it (a red border with black and white lettering). Howland stated he was contacted by Sack Thongvanh (previous Assistant City Manager) and was told to delete any color from the sign and make it only black and white. Howland believes this request was either from HPC or Jay at the Park and Rec Department.

Howland gave some history regarding this sign. This cost of the sign was paid for in part by a grant, donation from Marion Ross and ACT (each paying 1/3). The intention of this sign was to advertise events happening at the theater. The building is City owned. Howland gave the example of the Paramount Theater in Austin to show an example of colors used which he believes is a much better historical representation and provides color to the building and the downtown. (Paramount photo becomes part of these minutes by reference).

Larry Baker stated he can't remember being told the sign had to be black and white. Larry Baker also advised he does not have a problem with adding color to the border of the sign.

Tom Larson advised he remembers the timing of the changing of the messages being a discussion point but not color. The HPC at the time did not support the message changing less than 24 hours.

The HPC concerns are making sure the City of Albert Lea Downtown Historic District does not lose CLG status and making sure the district reflects the era of significance.

The sign is located within the DCD Zoning District.

A motion was made by Charles Newell stating that the HPC is supportive of additional colors on the dynamic sign as stated within the guidelines of the City of Albert Lea National Historic Commercial District Architectural Guidelines for Historic Preservation page 24, "*The commercial structures of this time period did not use a wide range of paint colors; dark green, dark brown and black were common. Signs were painted for contrast rather than for color (e.g., black letters on a white background or gold letters on a black background). A wider variety of paint colors is more frequently used today. If colors are used indiscriminately, however, the unique historic character of Albert Lea will be tarnished.*" It was further determined that no Certificate of Appropriateness is required under the ordinance or guidelines for this request. The motion was seconded by Tami Staker. Motion approved on a 5-0 voice vote.

Historic Markers/Plaques

This proposed project will involve further discussion on what information would be included on the markers and sizes and locations. There may be grants available through legacy funding if the information would be considered educational. The Cell-Fi window clings/QR codes will also be available for property owners to allow for the information of their building to be available to the public. Waiting until that material is up might give the commission a better idea of locations and the size of signage that would be appropriate.

COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATIONS: None

STAFF COMMUNICATIONS/ITEMS OF DISCUSSION

May is Preservation Month, to celebrate the HPC could show their support to the Community Growth Initiative Project CELL-Fi Tours (Pronounced Sell-Fee). This project came about through the Albert Lea Idea Splash in November 2015. The Cell-Fi Tours project is a self-guided tour of historic downtown Albert Lea and it's nearby lakes; Fountain & Albert Lea Lakes. The goal of the group is to incorporate QR codes at historic buildings or locations to educate and highlight to visitors and residents alike the significance of the building location. Jennifer will give Paul Shea a call and put together an article to highlight this new and exciting project.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Charles Newell and seconded by Tami Staker to adjourn the meeting at 7:07pm.

Next meeting is scheduled for

Respectfully submitted,

Molly Patterson-Lundgren, City Planner

Approved:

Heritage Preservation Vice Chair
Brad Kirchner

