

MINUTES OF THE ALBERT LEA HERITAGE PRESERVATION COMMISSION

Special Meeting

April 4, 2023

4:30 pm – City Center

Call to order at 4:32pm by Megan Boeck.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Tom Staker, Brad Kirchner, Stephanie Kibler, Darin Johnson, Tarrah Hall-Sather, and Larry Baker.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Nic Lang and Linda Bryan.

STAFF PRESENT: Megan Boeck, City Planner.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Hall-Sather and second by Kirchner to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Kirchner and second by Johnson to approve the March 14, 2023 meeting minutes. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

1) Historic Signage – Historical Museum

Boeck stated that Stephanie Kibler on behalf of the Freeborn County Historical Museum has requested discussion on historic building identification signs. The idea is that the Historical Museum would complete the leg work on creating and installing building identification signs that enhance the historic character of the district. The board would need to decide if they would be willing to forego the Certificate of Appropriateness application for each individual sign and give a blanket approval based on the mockup attached in the staff report.

Staker questioned the sizing that would be allowed and Kibler stated that the uniform sizing is 18x18". Johnson asked if there are any conditions that would be

applied. Kibler stated that there would be the condition that the Historical Museum would monitor the sign conditions and replace them as necessary.

Motion by Johnson and second by Kirchner to approve the historical signage as requested by the Freeborn County Historical Museum and to forego the Certificate of Appropriateness process for signage based on the mockup presented. Motion carried on a 4-0 voice vote with Kibler abstaining.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

1) Certificate of Appropriateness – 244 Broadway Ave S

Kirchner opened the public hearing at 4:41pm.

Boeck stated that Hope Church has applied for a COA for new signage. They would like to have the new sign erected before Easter Sunday, hence the reason for calling a special meeting. The proposed signage is described as a double-sided flag mounted sign and 4'x3'x7.5". Boeck stated there would also be no exterior or interior sign illumination and no shadow light.

Motion by Kirchner and second by Hall-Sather to approve the COA for the new sign. Motion carried on a 5-0 voice vote.

Kirchner expressed his appreciation for the modern look and durable materials. Johnson noted that it appears a lot of thought was put into it.

Kirchner closed the public hearing at 4:45pm.

COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATION

Baker questioned the progress with window replacement at 104 South Broadway. Boeck stated that windows have been ordered and is hopeful that install will take place by summer 2023.

Hall-Sather stated that the Saint Paul clothing sign was exposed after Hope Church completed construction and that she is appreciative of the history within that sign.

STAFF COMMUNICATION

Boeck stated that there would be no regular meeting scheduled for April 11, 2023.

Motion by Kibler and second by Johnson to adjourn the meeting at 4:52pm.
Motion carried.

Megan Boeck, City Planner

Brad Kirchner, Vice-Chair