

## **MINUTES OF THE ALBERT LEA HERITAGE PRESERVATION COMMISSION**

### **Regular Meeting**

**March 14, 2023**

**5:30 pm – City Center**

Call to order at 5:38pm by Megan Boeck.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Nic Lang, Brad Kirchner, Linda Bryan, and Darin Johnson.

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Larry Baker, Tom Staker, Stephanie Kibler, and Tarrah Hall-Sather,

**STAFF PRESENT:** Megan Boeck, City Planner.

### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

A motion was made by Johnson and second by Bryan to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion was made by Lang and second by Johnson to approve the September 12, 2022 meeting minutes with two name corrections. 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.

Kirchner stated he would be okay with a blanket approval as long as the look is consistent.

Johnson questioned the materials that would be used, mentioning that PVC lamination can last 10 to 15 years with minimal cost but that someone would have to commit to maintain the signs as they deteriorate.

Boeck suggested the Board table the discussion until the April meeting with the hopes that Stephanie Kiebler would be present and that in the meantime she will work on collecting more information on the cost of permitting.

Motion by Lang and second by Bryan to table until the April meeting. Motion carried.

## **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

### **1) Certificate of Appropriateness – 147 Broadway Ave N**

Kirchner opened the public hearing at 5:53pm.

Boeck stated that the Marion Ross Theatre has applied for a Certificate of Appropriateness to install a 10x20" bronze plaque in brown and black tones with a raised profile of Marion Ross and a quote she made. The placement is described as being on one of the limestone panels beside the front door of the theatre.

Motion by Lang and second by Johnson to approve the COA for placement of a bronze plaque. Motion carried on a 4-0 voice vote.

Kirchner closed the public hearing at 5:55pm.

## **COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATION**

### **1) Introduction of New Board Members**

Darin Johnson introduced himself to the board as the newest member.

### **2) Update on Code Enforcement Violation – 224 Broadway Ave S**

Boeck stated that city staff noticed exterior repairs were made to the property in September of 2022. A letter was sent to the owners notifying them of the violation and asked for cooperation in resolving the matter at their earliest convenience. Boeck also stated that she received a return call from the property owner and

that they would continue to work on the issue over the next six months but that no changes have been made in that time.

A motion was made by Kirchner and seconded by Lang to forward the Heritage Preservation Violation and Enforcement issue at 224 Broadway Ave S to the City Attorney's Office. Motion carried.

### **3) Discussion with Newest Board Member on Broadway Ridge Grant**

Board members discussed the application process, requirements, and explained how funding is dispersed through the Broadway Ridge Grant to the newest board member.

### **4) Discussion on Responsibility of Building Ownership**

Board members discussed the responsibility of building ownership; they discussed how individuals all need to take care of their properties to prevent disrepair and dilapidation.

### **5) Discussion on Repair vs. Replacement**

Board members had a significant discussion on repair versus replacement in/on buildings. The idea that when things fall into disrepair is that you have to replace them (ex. windows). In reality, you do not need to replace things that are deteriorating, things can be repaired without being replaced and there seems to be a misunderstanding on this.

## **STAFF COMMUNICATION**

### **1) Certified Local Government Grant – Historic Architectural Guidelines Update**

Boeck provided a copy of the final SHPO Certified Local Government grant application and said she is hoping for approval by April of 2023.

### **2) VFW Building**

Boeck stated that an agreement for ingress and egress has been made between the two property owners and we are looking forward to seeing improvements made on the building.

Motion by Bryan and second by Lang to adjourn the meeting at 6:30pm. Motion carried.

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Megan Boeck, City Planner

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Brad Kirchner, Vice-Chair