

MINUTES OF THE ALBERT LEA HERITAGE PRESERVATION COMMISSION

Regular Meeting

September 13, 2022

5:30 pm – City Center

Call to order at 5:32 by Megan Boeck.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Stephanie Kibler, Nic Lang, Brad Kirchner, Tarrah Hall-Sather, and Tom Staker.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Larry Baker and Jennifer Levisen.

STAFF PRESENT: Megan Boeck, City Planner.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Kibler and second by Hall-Sather to approve the agenda with an addition of one item. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Lang and second by Kirchner to approve the July 12, 2022 meeting minutes with one correction. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

1) 224 Broadway Ave S – HPC Violation

Boeck stated that city staff noticed that windows were boarded up with a plywood looking material. Staff is looking for direction from the board on how to proceed with enforcement.

Kirchner stated that the owner of that building is aware that HPC exists as they have applied for COA's in the past. Staker said that he prefers education efforts prior to enforcement at times.

Boeck stated that a violation letter will be mailed to the property owner which allows up to 30-days for a response. Boeck will continue to keep the Commission updated on any progress.

2) Historic Signage Discussion – Historical Museum

Stephanie Kibler from the Freeborn County Historical Museum presented the board with historic signage mockup to that in the Minneapolis North Loop Neighborhood. Kibler stated that the purpose is to offer a snap shot of the building's history with a QR code within the signage that offers additional information. Lastly, Kibler stated that it has been a successful way to engage overall awareness about historic preservation standards.

It was the consensus of the board that Kibler move forward with drafting and providing sign mockups relative to the historic buildings in Albert Lea.

3) Public Art – Shane Koepke

Shane Koepke from Art Walk Albert Lea (under the guidance of Main Street) has been contracting with local artists to paint murals on city buildings throughout the community. Koepke stated that the next art walk project, slated for spring of 2023, is in the alley between Home Federal and the 100 block of South Broadway. Koepke also stated that the result of the artwork in other areas has been an overall improvement to aesthetics as well as reduced amounts of graffiti. Koepke stated he is looking for HPC support to move forward with the mural.

Motion by Kircher and second by Lang to offer support to Art Walk Albert Lea for a mural in the alley between Home Federal and the 100 Block of South Broadway. Motion carried.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

1) 115 Clark St E – COA for new Sign

Kirchner opened the public hearing at 5:34pm.

Boeck stated that Joy Johnson, owner of Bader's Café at 115 East Clark Street, has applied for a COA for a new sign face for Bader's Café and noted that the proposed signage does meet city zoning code.

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

Kirchner closed the public hearing at 5:35pm.

2) 104 Broadway Ave S – COA for Windows

Kirchner opened the public hearing at 5:36pm.

Boeck stated that Taco King has submitted a COA application for 14 new windows that will replace the in-fill from 2019. Boeck noted that Daniel Otten worked with the applicant and Southern Glass (window contractor for the applicant) but they were unable to be present at tonight's meeting. Otten also stated that he was available for any questions that board might have.

Motion by Kirchner and second by Lang to approve the COA for 14 new windows. Motion carried on a 5-0 voice vote.

Kirchner closed the public hearing at 5:43pm.

COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATION

Kirchner stated that he would like to form a subcommittee to update the Historic Preservation Guidelines and also make a more immediate amendment to the language that requires a COA for making repairs or replacements that do not change the look of a façade. Kirchner also stated that eliminating COA's for signage could be an option. Boeck stated she will bring some options for edits to the next meeting.

STAFF COMMUNICATION

Boeck stated that she would be attending the 2022 Preserve MN Conference in Duluth this week.

Motion by Kirchner and second by Kibler to adjourn the meeting at 6:32pm.
Motion carried.

Megan Boeck, City Planner