Landmarks Heritage Preservation Commission

MINUTES

Wednesday, May 8, 2019

Public Meeting:

1:30 PM, Room 1210

Omaha/Douglas Civic Center
1819 Farnam Street

Landmarks Heritage Preservation Commission Members: Scott Dobbe – Chair, Carey Meyer – Vice Chair, Andrew Conzett, Joan Fogarty, Brian Magee, Regan Pence, Kathryn Aultz, Jaime Suarez and Curt Witzenburg.

Certification of Publication: Omaha Preservation Administrator certifies publication in the Daily Record, the official newspaper of the City of Omaha, on Thursday, April 25, 2019 notice re: Landmarks Heritage Preservation Commission meeting on Wednesday, May 8, 2019.

Members Present:

Scott Dobbe – Chair
Carrie Meyer – Vice Chair
Kathryn Aultz
Andrew Conzett
Joan Fogarty, Chair
Jaime Suarez

Members Not Present:

Brian Magee
Regan Pence
Curt Witzenburg

Others Present:

Jed Moulton, Urban Design Planning Manager
Ivy Freitag, LHPC Administrator
Jennifer Taylor, City Law Department
Clinette Ingram, Recording Secretary

Mr. Dobbe called the meeting to order at 1:35 pm. He introduced the Commission members, City staff and explained the procedures for hearing the cases. There were five members present. Mr. Suarez appeared after roll call and the approval of the minutes.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Ms. Meyer moved to APPROVE the minutes from the April 10, 2019 meetings as amended. Mr. Conzett seconded the motion.

AYES: Meyer, Aultz, Conzett, Fogarty, Dobbe

MOTION CARRIED: 5-0.
CERTIFICATE OF APPROVAL (COA)  *Layover from 4/10/2019.

CASE NUMBER: 19-02-H3  PROPERTY: Residence, Bemis Park Historic District
OWNER: Mark Guilliat  LOCATION: 3410 Lincoln Blvd, 68131
APPLICANT: Elijah Williams Construction  REQUEST: Modified porch design

At the Landmarks Heritage Preservation Commission meeting held on May 8, 2019, Charles Gifford (Flatiron Studio) appeared before the commission on behalf of the property owner.

Mr. Gifford explained that the previous owner of the home dug out the foundation wall and made the basement a walk-out basement. That left a door that was 8’ from the ground. He stated that the goal was to make the design as symmetrical as possible. He proposed a two-tier porch that was approximately 8’ in depth that would tie the appearance of the home together and would help to conceal the slightly random placement of the windows and doors. He showed other homes along Lincoln Boulevard with four columns and explained the details of the proposed design. The columns would be 8” square with simple crown molding and bases.

Mr. Dobbe stated that he appreciated the reserved look of the design and how it fit with the context of the home. Ms. Meyer added that the presentation helped the commission to understand the actual design being proposed.

Ms. Fogarty moved to accept the design as presented. Ms. Meyer seconded the motion.

AYES: Meyer, Aultz, Conzett, Fogarty, Suarez, Dobbe

MOTION CARRIED: 6-0.
At the Landmarks Heritage Preservation Commission meeting held on May 8, 2019, Melissa Dirr Gengler (Historic Resources Group – Lincoln, Nebraska) appeared before the commission on behalf of the applicant/owner.

Ms. Gengler stated that the building was built in 1919 for the Nebraska Buick Auto Company. It became Redfield Printing around 1958. While Buick occupied the building it had a 19th Street address and did not become 1901 Howard until 1954 when the electric company temporarily occupied the building. The original address was 502 South 19th Street. The building was nominated under Criterion A for its significance in the area of commerce, specifically as an automotive specialty store. It was designed by Chicago architect Paul V. Hyland with J.G. McArthur being the local consulting architect who designed several buildings in Lincoln that resemble the Buick building. When it was constructed, it was one of the biggest auto showrooms in Omaha with almost 10,000 square feet of showroom space. The first floor held cars, the second floor held tractors and trucks, and the third floor held offices and was used for painting. The fourth floor held the garage where cars were repaired after they were carried by the automotive elevator. The elevator measures approximately 12’ x 25’ with a load capacity of about 20,000 pounds. The 18’ high ceilings on the fourth floor had ventilation for the exhaust fumes from the cars. The business advertised frequently and it grew quickly. The building was being nominated as a contributor to the Lincoln Highway. The period of significance is from 1919 when it was constructed until 1954 when the last automotive business used the building.

Ms. Gengler presented the only two historic photographs of the building that she could find. She noted the projecting acanthus leaf detailing that went along the cornice, the impressive industrial steel windows on the third and fourth floors, and the second story that was designed specifically for advertising. She presented current pictures and observed that the biggest alteration is the windows which prevented the building from being nominated under Criterion C for its architecture. The first floor interior looked similar to the original design with the exception of office space that had been added by the Redfield printing company. The tile on the floor and walls of the first floor are still intact along with the contemporary bathrooms. Redfield installed modern office finishes on the second floor around the perimeter walls. The elevator, which does not meet current safety standards, will possibly be used on one of the floors as a conference room.

In response to Mr. Dobbe, Ms. Gengler stated that she could not find pictures that showed the original windows in more detail. She stated that she is still looking through Buick archives and other sources. Ms. Aultz and Ms. Meyer stated that they would assist with looking for more pictures. It was also determined that the flag pole on top of the building was original.

Ms. Aultz moved to APPROVE the request as presented. Mr. Suarez seconded the motion.

AYES: Meyer, Aultz, Conzett, Fogarty, Suarez, Dobbe

MOTION CARRIED: 6-0.
ADJOURNMENT:

It was the consensus of the Board to ADJOURN the meeting at 2:09 p.m.