MINUTES
PUBLIC HEARING AND ADMINISTRATIVE MEETING
LANDMARKS HERITAGE PRESERVATION COMMISSION
1:30 P.M. - WEDNESDAY, JUNE 12, 2013
12TH FLOOR – ROOM 1210
OMAHA DOUGLAS CIVIC CENTER - 1819 FARNAM STREET

CERTIFICATION OF PUBLICATION:

The Omaha Preservation Administrator certifies publication in the Daily Record, the official newspaper of the City of Omaha, on Wednesday, June 5, 2013, notice re: Landmarks Heritage Preservation Commission meeting June 12, 2013.

MEMBERS PRESENT:  Douglas Bisson, Chair
                    Albert Macchietto, Vice Chair
                    Diana Failla
                    Jose Garcia
                    John Hargiss
                    Peggy Jones
                    Nancy Novak

MEMBER(S) NOT PRESENT:  Wanda Ewing
                        Eduardo Santamaria

OTHERS PRESENT:  Mike Leonard, LHPC Administrator
                 RoseMarie Horvath, City Law
                 Clinette Warren, Recording Secretary

Douglas Bisson, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:33 pm, introduced the Commission members, as well as the staff. Mr. Bisson explained the procedures for hearing the cases. Roll was taken with seven members present.

Mr. Bisson introduced Diana Failla to the Board. Ms. Failla replaces Gregory Mahloch.
At the Landmarks Heritage Preservation Commission meeting held on Wednesday, June 12, 2013, Jennifer Honebrink and Eric Wieseler appeared before the Board in support of the request.

Ms. Honebrink presented several slides showing pictures of the building from the past and present. She explained how the property meets each of the criteria for the National Register Nomination. The first criteria is its association with Meyer & Raapke, which was a local wholesale merchant that specialized in “fancy” groceries or canned goods, meats, vegetables and other items. After the deaths of Meyer and Raapke, the building was occupied by the Corey McKenzie Printing Company. The building also meets the criteria because of its Richardsonian Romanesque architectural style. This is reflected in the large, arched window openings and spandrel panels. Ms. Honebrink provided various details about the way the building was designed and built, which included the supportive joists; the use of cast iron on the lower floors; the solid dividing wall which made it easier to separate the floor so the space could be used by another business; and the mirroring elevators and stairs. The building was also used by the Levinson Chemical Company from 1937 until 1996.

Mr. Wieseler addressed the exterior and interior changes that are proposed for the property. He stated that some of the windows have been removed and safely stored. They will be reinstalled as artwork after the building has been renovated. The façade of the building will be repainted colors that are original to the property. The sculptural medallions will be redone and the other decorative stonework will be either replaced or repaired in an attempt to bring the exterior as close to the original design as possible. He stated that the building will be designed as a mixed use property: an antique store will occupy the space on the first floor; creative office space is planned for the second floor; and, the third and fourth floors will be comprised of six, one to two bedroom apartments. There was some discussion in regards to parking, the height of the various floors and proposed signage for the building.

Ms. Jones moved to APPROVE the request for National Register nomination for the Meyer & Raapke (aka Corey McKenzie) building. Mr. Garcia seconded the motion.

AYES: Failla, Garcia, Jones, Hargiss, Bisson

ABSTAIN: Macchietto, Novak

MOTION CARRIED: 5-0-2
APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mr. Hargiss moved to approve the January 9, 2013 meeting minutes as written. Mr. Garcia seconded the motion.

AYES: Macchietto, Novak, Garcia, Jones, Hargiss, Bisson

ABSTAIN: Failla

MOTION CARRIED: 6-0-1

MISCELLANEOUS:

Mike Leonard, LHPC Administrator, mentioned the Nebraska State Historic Preservation Office Conference which would occur on June 14 – 15. Ms. Jones was scheduled to attend along with various members of City staff. He encouraged other commission members to attend if possible. There was also discussion about the length of terms for commission members. He advised the Board that Wanda Ewing had resigned from the Board and that there were plans to replace the vacant seat.

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