



Landmarks Heritage Preservation Commission

MINUTES

Wednesday, August 12, 2015

Public Meeting:

1:30 PM, Room 1210 – 12th Floor

Omaha/Douglas Civic Center
1819 Farnam Street

Landmarks Heritage Preservation Commission Members: George Killian – Vice Chair, Carrie Meyer, Regan Pence, Scott Dobbe, Kathryn Aultz, Joan Fogarty, Jaime Suarez and Brian Magee.

Certification of Publication: Omaha Preservation Administrator certifies publication in the Daily Record, the official newspaper of the City of Omaha, on Friday, July 31, 2015 notice re: Landmarks Heritage Preservation Commission meeting, August 12, 2015.

Members Present:

George Killian, Vice-Chair
Scott Dobbe
Brian Magee
Carrie Meyer
Regan Pence
Jaime Suarez

Members Not Present:

Kathryn Aultz
Joan Fogarty

Others Present:

Trina Westman, LHPC Administrator
Jennifer Taylor, City Law
Clinette Warren, Recording Secretary

Mr. Killian, Vice-Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:34 pm, introduced the Commission members and staff. He explained the procedures for hearing the cases. Roll call was taken with six members present.

Approval of Minutes:

Mr. Pence moved to APPROVE the minutes for the May 13, 2015 meeting. Mr. Dobbe seconded the motion.

AYES: Dobbe, Pence, Suarez, Killian

ABSTAIN: Magee, Meyer

MOTION CARRIED: 4-0-2

Mr. Pence moved to APPROVE the minutes for the June 10, 2015 meeting. Mr. Suarez seconded the motion.

AYES: Meyer, Pence, Suarez, Killian

ABSTAIN: Dobbe, Magee

MOTION CARRIED: 4-0-2

NATIONAL REGISTER:

CASE NUMBER: 15-16-H5	NAME:	10 th & Pierce Car Barn
PRESENTED BY:	LOCATION:	1100 Pierce Street
Caitlin Kolb_Alley Poyner Macchietto Architecture	REQUEST:	Approval of National Register Nomination

At the Landmarks Heritage Preservation Commission meeting held on Wednesday, August 12, 2015, Caitlin Kolb appeared before the Commission.

Ms. Kolb stated that the property was being nominated under Criterion A for its association with changes in local transportation technology and Criterion C for its significance as the only double-decker car barn in Omaha. She presented several photographs and maps of the building which included pictures of its location and the slope of the building from east to west. The building slope enabled street cars to enter the building from the east at the first story and the west at the second story. She provided some background information about the Omaha streetcar system, which dates back to 1867. It remained in active service until 1955 when the streetcar system was abandoned in favor of bus transportation. It was subsequently used by a truck agency and then the Postal Service who will occupy the facility until January 2016.

The building is simply ornamented and reflects the style of commercial architecture of the time. Its significance is tied to its unique double-decker design. The interior design of the building includes concrete columns and floors. The presentation included pictures of the interior showing the two mezzanines, double-hung wood windows, and the iron railing system. She mentioned that the structure was one of the last of its kind.

In response to Mr. Killian, Ms. Kolb stated that the building would become a year-round farmer's market in the future. The interior of the building would be maintained as much as possible along with the exterior guardrails that are original to the structure. Mr. Killian noted that the proposed plan for the building should allow the integrity of the building to remain intact since minimum changes, with the exception of some ADA improvements, would need to be made.

Ruben Acosta, Nebraska State Historical Society, appeared in support of the request. He stated that worked with the applicant on the nomination and expressed support for its approval.

Trina Westman, LHPC Administrator, stated that the Planning Department supported the recommendation for approval based on the criteria stated by the applicant.

Mr. Dobbe moved to APPROVE the National Register nomination. Ms. Meyer seconded the motion.

AYES: Dobbe, Magee, Meyer, Pence, Suarez, Killian

MOTION CARRIED: 6-0

CASE NUMBER: 15-18-H5	NAME:	The Polish Home
PRESENTED BY:	LOCATION:	4701 S 25 Street
Patrick Thompson_Restoration Exchange Omaha	REQUEST:	Approval of National Register Nomination

At the Landmarks Heritage Preservation Commission meeting held on Wednesday, August 12, 2015, Patrick Thompson appeared before the Commission.

Mr. Thompson presented a slide show of the Polish Home, which is currently known as El Museo Latino. The building is a Romanesque Revival, u-shaped, single-story structure with a rusticated stone foundation, brick load-bearing exterior walls, and a hipped roof covered in clay tiles. A rusticated stone retaining wall runs along the front side of the building. He showed several pictures of the exterior and interior of the building. The building was built originally as a school, but the interior had been changed dramatically over time by subsequent owners, which included the American Legion (from 1930) and the Polish Home (from 1936 until 1998). The Polish Home became a center for south Omaha's social life where dances, labor rallies, wedding receptions and other large functions were held.

The building was nominated under Criterion A for its social history and its ethnic heritage because of its use as a Polish-American social center in South Omaha for almost 60 years. El Museo Latino currently uses the building for social and cultural events.

In response to Mr. Suarez, Mr. Thompson explained that although the building was used currently by El Museo Latino, it was referred to as The Polish Home during its period of significance.

Tom Jodlowski appeared in support of the request. He was currently on the Board of Directors for the Polish Home. He and other members of that Board signed a letter in support of the nomination. They were pleased that another ethnic group could use the facility as a cultural center.

Magdalena Garcia, Founder & Executive Director – El Museo Latino, appeared in support of the request. The museum is one of 12 Latino museums in the United States. She explained some of the renovations that the building has undergone which include the addition of an elevator, handicap accessible restrooms, and roof repair. There were plans for additional repairs and renovations that would open the original windows and upgrade an existing bathroom and all of the building systems. She discussed other present and future plans for the facility. There was some discussion about plans for the courtyard area and building signage.

Ruben Acosta, Nebraska State Historical Society, appeared in support of the request. He believed that the nomination qualified under Criterion A with its focus on the social and ethnic history mainly from 1936 – 1965 when it was known as the Polish Home.

Trina Westman, LHPC Administrator, stated that the Planning Department supported the recommendation for approval based on the criteria stated by the applicant. In response to Ms. Westman, Mr. Acosta explained that the building was not nominated under Criterion C for its architecture since many of the windows had been altered along with changes to the roof and significant changes to the interior.

Mr. Magee moved to APPROVE the National Register Nomination. Mr. Suarez seconded the motion.

AYES: Dobbe, Magee, Meyer, Pence, Suarez, Killian

MOTION CARRIED: 6-0

CLG BASIC TRAINING:

Ruben Acosta, National Register Coordinator – Nebraska State Historical Society, directed a training session with the members of the Commission.

Adjournment:

It was the consensus of the Board to ADJOURN the meeting at 3:40 p.m.