Landmarks Heritage Preservation Commission

MINUTES

Wednesday, February 10, 2016

Public Meeting:
1:30 PM, Room 1210 – 12th Floor
Omaha/Douglas Civic Center
1819 Farnam Street

Landmarks Heritage Preservation Commission Members: Joan Fogarty – Chair, George Killian – Vice Chair, Carrie Meyer, Regan Pence, Scott Dobbe, Kathryn Aultz, Jaime Suarez, Brian Magee 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, January 28, 2015 notice re: Landmarks Heritage Preservation Commission meeting, February 10, 2016.

Members Present: Joan Fogarty, Chair
George Killian, Vice-Chair
Kathryn Aultz
Scott Dobbe
Brian Magee
Carrie Meyer
Regan Pence
Jaime Suarez

Members Not Present: Curt Witzenburg

Others Present: Trina Westman, LHPC Administrator
Jennifer Taylor, City Law Department
Clinette Warren, Recording Secretary

Ms. Fogarty - Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:30 pm, introduced the Commission members and staff. She explained the procedures for hearing the cases. There were eight members present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mr. Killian moved to APPROVE the January 13, 2016 meeting minutes. Ms. Aultz seconded the motion.

AYES: Killian, Aultz, Pence, Suarez, Fogarty

ABSTAIN: Dobbe, Meyer

MOTION CARRIED: 5-0-2

(Mr. Magee was not present when the minutes were approved.)
LOCAL LANDMARK DESIGNATION:

CASE NUMBER: 16-02-H1  NAME: Johnston Building
PRESENTED BY: Paul Kimmons_Owner's Representative LOCATION: 1146 S 32 Street
REQUEST: Recommendation of Approval for Local Landmark Designation

At the Landmarks Heritage Preservation Commission meeting held on Wednesday, February 10, 2016, Trina Westman (LHPC Coordinator) and Paul Kimmons appeared before the Commission in support of the request. (Eric B. Kimmons and Ingrid K. Kimmons are the owners of the building and Mr. Kimmons is their representative.)

Ms. Westman presented several slides showing the site and its location in context with other structures in the area. She showed copies of Sanborn maps and the buildings listings in past Reconnaissance Surveys, which attested to the historical integrity of the building and the surrounding neighborhood. The building has been identified as having architectural significance. There were pictures of the exterior of the duplex from various angles and also of the interior, with focus on the woodwork, gas lamps and stained glass windows, which are all in place. She stated that the Planning Department recommended approval of the Local Landmark Designation for the building.

Mr. Kimmons provided a significant amount of historical information about the building and the Hanscom Place neighborhood. He spoke about the architect, Jack McDonald, who was one of the most prominent architects in the Omaha area at the time. He also mentioned previous owners of the building which was built in 1888*, and the duplex-style floor design. He stated that his family has attempted to make the apartments as modern as possible while keeping the character of the building intact. He explained that the building was painted to protect the sandstone exterior.

In response to Mr. Killian, Ms. Westman stated that the Planning Department would look into whether the Hanscom Place neighborhood could become a Local Landmark District. Ms. Fogarty added that she believed that this area was one of the last that was still intact as an example of a middle-class neighborhood from before the turn of the century. She mentioned that there are approximately 20 – 25 more buildings that were designed by Mr. McDonald and several by the architect Thomas Rogers Kimball. In addition, it is one of the earliest neighborhoods that was developed as a result of the streetcar. It is also still considered to be a “walking neighborhood”.

In response to Mr. Dobbe, Mr. Kimmons explained that the Local Landmark Designation would help to preserve and protect the historical integrity of the building, especially with regards to current building codes. In response, Ms. Westman clarified that any work performed on the building should be in accordance with the Secretary of the Interior’s standards as well as with the International Building Code and other applicable codes.

Mr. Killian moved to APPROVE the Local Landmark Designation. Mr. Suarez seconded the motion.

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

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

* The structure was built in 1888, not 1866 as stated by the applicant.

Adjournment:

It was the consensus of the Board to ADJOURN the meeting at 2:48 p.m.