Landmarks Heritage Preservation Commission

MINUTES

Wednesday, April 13, 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 Wednesday, April 6, 2016 notice re: Landmarks Heritage Preservation Commission meeting, April 13, 2016.

Members Present: Joan Fogarty, Chair
George Killian, Vice-Chair
Kathryn Aultz
Regan Pence
Jaime Suarez

Members Not Present: Scott Dobbe
Brian Magee
Carrie Meyer
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 1:32 pm, introduced the Commission members and staff. She explained the procedures for hearing the cases. There were five members present.

Ms. Fogarty requested that City Attorney, Jennifer Taylor, update the commission on the revisions to Chapter 24 of the Omaha Municipal Code that were presented to the board at its March 9, 2016 meeting. She stated that she shared the commission’s suggestions with Councilman Chris Jerram. He chose to leave the structure age limit at 75; however, she stated that the commission could voice their concerns about the age limit at public hearings and City Council meetings. Ms. Taylor added some introductory information that explained the intent of the revision. She also included the option of deconstruction as a matter of discussion with a developer since it can be an expensive option. She was in the process of briefing several interested parties about the matter. She believed that the matter would be introduced to City Council for first hearing on either April 26th or May 3rd.
APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mr. Killian moved to APPROVE the February 10, 2016 minutes as submitted. Ms. Aultz seconded the motion.

AYES: Killian, Aultz, Suarez, Pence, Fogarty

MOTION CARRIED: 5-0

Mr. Killian moved to APPROVE the March 9, 2016 minutes as amended. Mr. Suarez seconded the motion.

AYES: Kilian, Suarez, Pence, Fogarty

ABSTAIN: Aultz

MOTION CARRIED: 4-0-1

NATIONAL REGISTER NOMINATION:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CASE NUMBER:</th>
<th>16-06-H5</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NAME:</td>
<td>Danish Brotherhood in America</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LOCATION:</td>
<td>3717 Harney Street</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REQUEST:</td>
<td>Review and Comments on the National Register Nomination</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

At the Landmarks Heritage Preservation Commission meeting held on April 13, 2016, Patrick Thompson appeared before the Commission.

Mr. Thompson showed the location of the building in the Gold Coast Historic District and highlighted various architectural details of the structure. He noted that the spiral, copper spire inspired by the stock exchange in Copenhagen crowns the roof. In the lobby and other parts of the building is actual furniture from the Danish Brotherhood that remained after the building was sold. The bathrooms contain most, if not all, of the original fixtures.

Mr. Thompson explained that the building is locally significant under Criterion C for architecture due to its unusual composite architecture, which blended modern design aesthetic with historical details. There is a combination of early postmodern design using Danish details that create a building that is unique to the city and to the Midwest in general. It can also be described as a late example of a design in the National Romantic style which uses a significant amount of stone, native timber and brick. He mentioned that the building’s designer, Edward Sessinghaus, was a local architect who also designed the Sokol Auditorium, the masonic hall in Blair, Nebraska, and numerous homes throughout Omaha. He noted that there was significant Danish Brotherhood involvement with the selection of Mr. Sessinghaus as the building’s architect and in its design. He stated that the building makes a statement about the Danish brotherhood’s sense of ethnic pride and their origins.
Mr. Killian inquired as to whether the buildings connection to the Gold Coast District should be mentioned since it did not fall within the character and time period of the district. Ms. Westman responded that the structure was of a different era and did not meet period of significance criteria.

Mr. Killian recommended APPROVAL of the National Register nomination. Mr. Pence seconded the motion.

AYES: Killian, Aульт, Suarez, Pence, Fogarty

MOTION CARRIED: 5-0

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Kristine Gerber, Restoration Exchange of Omaha, appeared before the commission. She stated that she was working with the Fairacres Neighborhood Association to help it become a Local Landmark District. She requested clarification on the requirements for that process. She explained that she used the form for the Gold Coast District as a guide. Her second request was for an easier way for residents to apply for a Local Landmark and National Register designation for their properties. It was decided that city staff would work on adopting a set of guidelines that would be forward to the commission for its approval.

Adjournment:

It was the consensus of the Board to ADJOURN the meeting at 2:15 p.m.