

MINUTES
BELOIT LANDMARKS COMMISSION
Meeting of January 20, 2009

A Meeting of the Beloit Landmarks Commission was held on Tuesday, January 20, 2009 in the City Manager's Conference Room on the 4th Floor of City Hall.

Present: John Dummer, Sandra Williams, Marjorie Fizzell, Rick McGrath, Lynette Johnson,
Jennifer Knezel

Absent: Daniel Shea, Charles Haynes

1. Roll Call

Commissioner Fizzell called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Community Planner Drew Pennington called the Roll.

2. Minutes of the November 18, 2008 Meeting

Commissioner Fizzell noted that she did not vote on the Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) application for the property located at 861 Bluff Street. Following this correction, Minutes of the November 18, 2008 meeting were approved on a motion by Commissioner Dummer, seconded by Commissioner Williams. The motion carried (6-0).

3. Public Comments

None

4. Chairperson's Reminders Regarding Meeting Procedures

Commissioner Fizzell discussed the importance of staying focused on specific applications and properties that are on the official meeting Agenda. Commissioner Fizzell asked the Commissioners to make concise motions that include all desired conditions of approval.

5. Gilbank Construction, Inc. – Certificate of Appropriateness

COA-2009-01 Review and consideration of a Certificate of Appropriateness to replace the exterior molding on the church located at 717 Bluff Street.

Mr. Pennington read the staff report.

Commissioner McGrath expressed his appreciation for the photos of the historic church and the existing exterior molding. Commissioner Williams expressed her satisfaction with the proposed work. Commissioner McGrath expressed his appreciation for the applicant's attempt to duplicate the original appearance. Commissioner McGrath asked Mr. Pennington about the stabilization project. Mr. Pennington stated that the applicant's goal was to prevent further deterioration and bowing of the walls.

Following this discussion, Commissioner McGrath made a motion to approve the requested COA, subject to the conditions recommended by staff. Commissioner Dummer seconded the motion. The motion carried (6-0).

6. Larry Ufken – Certificate of Appropriateness

COA-2009-02 Review and consideration of a Certificate of Appropriateness to replace broken blocks, to repair existing windows, to replace certain blocks with red bricks, to install a new overhead garage door, and to install new gutters and downspouts on the dairy barn located at 2601 Afton Road.

Mr. Pennington read the staff report.

Commissioner Williams noted that the rehabilitation of the dairy barn is taking a long time. Commissioner Dummer stated that the applicant is doing all of the work himself, and that each phase is proposed when the applicant has adequate funding available. Commissioner Fizzell stated that she would like the entire project to be completed by the recommended completion date (January 1, 2011). Commissioner Dummer stated that the applicant has been willing to cooperate with the Commission in the past. Commissioner Williams stated that the applicant appears to be putting forth effort. Commissioner Dummer stated that the dairy barn used to be a showplace. Commissioner McGrath asked about the quality of the work thus far. Commissioner Dummer stated that the work appears to be of decent quality.

Following this discussion, Commissioner Williams made a motion to approve the requested COA, subject to the conditions recommended by staff. Commissioner Dummer seconded the motion. The motion carried (6-0).

7. Report on Staff-Approved Certificates of Appropriateness Since Last Meeting

Mr. Pennington announced that he issued a COA for the installation of a historic plaque on the historic house located at 624 Park Avenue. Mr. Pennington also announced that he has notified the owners of 710 Bluff Street that they are in violation of a previously approved COA. The violations must be corrected by March 31, 2009.

8. Discussion of Committee Responsibilities and Assignments

Commissioner McGrath expressed his desire to reduce redundancy in committee duties and responsibilities. Commissioner Fizzell suggested combining the Awards Committee and Plaque Committee into one. Commissioner Williams suggested the appointment of a committee that focuses on interacting with area school districts. Commissioner McGrath suggested a communication and education committee. Commissioner Fizzell expressed her support for an education committee. Commissioner Dummer explained the duties of the Cemetery Building Committee and stated that both the Cemetery Building Committee and the Landmarks/DBA Design District Committee could be dissolved. Commissioner McGrath suggested a compliance committee and a code enforcement committee. Commissioner Dummer stated that code enforcement issues are outside of the Commission's purview. Commissioner McGrath suggested that code enforcement should be within the Commission's purview.

9. Committee Reports

A. Awards Committee: Commissioner Fizzell expressed her intent to nominate Gorman & Company for an award recognizing the Fairbanks Flats rehabilitation project.

B. Plaque Committee: Nothing to report.

C. Program/Publicity Committee: Commissioner McGrath stated that the Neighborhood Preservation Association continues to meet on a bi-monthly basis.

D. Cemetery Building Committee: Nothing to report.

E. Landmarks/DBA Design District Committee: Nothing to report.

10. Adjournment

At 8:05 PM, Commissioner Dummer made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and Commissioner Williams seconded the motion. The motion carried (6-0).

Drew Pennington
Community Planner