

MINUTES
BELOIT LANDMARKS COMMISSION
Meeting of December 20, 2011

A Meeting of the Beloit Landmarks Commission was held on Tuesday, December 20, 2011 in the City Hall Forum.

Present: Marjorie Fizzell, Rick McGrath, Steve Vollmer, Sandra Williams, Lynette Johnson, Charles Haynes

Absent: Donna Johnson

1. Roll Call

Commissioner McGrath called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Assistant Planner Michael Lofton called the Roll.

2. Minutes of the September 20, 2011 Meeting

Minutes of the September 20, 2011 meeting were approved on a motion by Commissioner Sandra Williams, seconded by Commissioner Marjorie Fizzell. The motion carried (5-0).

3. Public Comments: None

4. Joy Beckman – Certificate of Appropriateness

COA-2011-30 Review and consideration of a Certificate of Appropriateness for the restoration of a concrete terrace with garden planter boxes at 703 Park Avenue.

Mr. Lofton read the staff report.

Joy Beckman approached the lectern and identified herself as the applicant. Ms. Beckman explained that the restoration of the terrace would be done in two phases. Phase Two would consist of facing the proposed concrete terrace and garden planter boxes with procured limestone. Ms. Beckman requested an amendment to her COA application to increase the length of garden planter boxes to two feet. No action was taken on said request. Commissioner McGrath and Commissioner Johnson expressed concern about the architectural style and permanency of the proposed concrete terrace and its potential impact upon the character and historical significance of the house. Commissioner McGrath suggested that the applicant construct a wooden terrace or porch consistent with an Italianate style instead of a concrete terrace. Commissioner Vollmer expressed concern about the lack of softscape landscaping in the proposed design to soften the appearance of the proposed concrete terrace. Commissioner Haynes suggested that a traditional masonry terrace would be more consistent with the Italianate style of the house as opposed to a concrete terrace.

Following this discussion, Commissioner Vollmer made a motion to lay the application over for a period of ninety days or more for future consideration. Commissioner Williams seconded the motion. The motion carried (5-0).

5. City of Beloit – Certificate of Appropriateness

COA-2011-31 Review and consideration of a Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) for new signage at Horace White Park, 825 East Grand Avenue.

Mr. Lofton read the staff report.

Brian Ramsey, Director of Parks & Leisure Services, approached the lectern and identified himself as the applicant. Mr. Ramsey apologized for erecting the sign without COA approval. He explained that a number of park signs were bundled into one Architectural Review Application when it was submitted to the Planning Division for review. When he received the Architectural Review Certificate he assumed it included the Horace White Park sign as well. The Commissioners expressed that the sign was a significant improvement compared to the previous existing sign.

Following this discussion, Commissioner Vollmer made a motion to approve the requested COA, subject to the conditions recommended by staff. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. The motion carried (5-0).

6. Election of Officers

Commissioner Vollmer made a motion to nominate Commissioner McGrath for the position of Chairperson. Commissioner Fizzell seconded the motion. The motion carried (5-0).

Commissioner Fizzell made a motion to nominate Commissioner Williams for the position of Vice-Chairperson. Commissioner Vollmer seconded the motion. The motion carried (5-0).

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

Mr. Lofton announced that staff recently issued Certificates of Appropriateness for the following projects:

630 Park Avenue – To replace storm door for front and side of the house.

842 Park Avenue – To replace the roof.

112 Bluff Street – To replace private sidewalk.

816 Park Avenue – To repair fascia, soffit, and siding.

749 Bluff Street – To replace downspout.

749 Milwaukee Road – To replace portion of roof.

8. Committee Reports

A. Education & Outreach Committee: No activity to report.

B. Grant Writing Committee: No activity to report.

9. Adjournment

At 8:30 PM, Commissioner Williams made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and Commissioner Vollmer seconded the motion. The motion carried (5-0).

Michael D. Lofton II, Assistant Planner