

MINUTES
BELOIT LANDMARKS COMMISSION
Meeting of May 23, 2012

A Special Meeting of the Beloit Landmarks Commission was held on Wednesday, May 23, 2012 in the City Manager's Conference Room.

Present: Donna Johnson, Sandra Williams, Steve Vollmer, Rick McGrath, Charles Haynes

Absent: Lynette Johnson, Ellen Joyce

1. Roll Call

Commissioner McGrath called the meeting to order at 6:55 PM. Assistant Planner Michael Lofton called the Roll.

2. Minutes of the April 17, 2012 Meeting

Minutes of the April 17, 2012 meeting were approved on a motion by Commissioner Vollmer, seconded by Commissioner Donna Johnson. The motioned was carried (4-0).

3. Public Comments: None

4. Lisa Anderson-Levy & Robert Levy – Certificate of Appropriateness

COA-2012-13 Review and consideration of a Certificate of Appropriateness for the renovation of the front porch and expansion of a rear-yard deck for the property located at 723 Church Street.

Mr. Lofton read the staff report.

Robert Levy identified himself as the applicant. Mr. Levy explained that he and his wife have lived in the house for four years, and they have noticed that the wood on the porch is rotting and needs to be replaced. Commissioner McGrath stated that the landing of the porch just needed to be repaired by scraping and repainting the deck boards as opposed to complete replacement of them. Mr. Levy stated that repairing them had been considered, but was concerned that railing and decking boards are failing due to water damage, and the level of repair needed could only be determined once the project started. Commissioner asked if there was a special reason for rail height. Mr. Levy responded that the safety of his grandchild was the reason for updating the height of the railing. Commissioner McGrath proposed to retain the original height of the railing and suggested the addition of an addendum. Mr. Levy responded that there is great concern for the safety of his family and that an addendum will not work. Commissioner Vollmer asked if the existing deck boards were really rotting. Mr. Levy responded that he would not know until the work had begun but from the appearance of them, yes. Commissioner Donna Johnson asked about the replacement wood for the decking boards. Mr. Levy stated that treated wood would be used. Commissioner Haynes suggested that Douglas Fir wood was the appropriate wood to be use.

Commissioner Donna Johnson agreed and stated that it was better to keep the original wood than to use the suggested treated wood.

Following this discussion, Commissioner Volmer made a motion to add two conditions to the COA. The first condition was that the porch shall be repaired with like materials and shall maintain its original and existing style and design characteristics (e.g. wood material and railing height dimensions). The second condition was that the applicant should return to the Landmarks Commission for review of any major structural issues occurring with the repair of the front porch. Commissioner Donna Johnson seconded the motion, the motioned carried (4-0). Commissioner Vollmer made a motion to approve the requested COA, subject to the conditions recommended by staff. Commissioner Williams seconded the motion. The motion carried (4-0).

5. Committee Reports

A. Education & Outreach Committee: Commissioner McGrath discussed the location of primary and secondary signs in the Historic Districts. Information regarding windows to present to the new Downtown Beloit Association Director was discussed.

B. Grant Writing Committee: No reports were made.

6. Adjournment

At 8:10 PM, Commissioner Vollmer made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and Commissioner Donna Johnson seconded the motion. The motion carried (4-0).

Michael D. Lofton II, Assistant Planner