

A regular meeting of the Landmarks Commission, City of Cedarburg, Wisconsin, was held Thursday, January 14, 2021 at Cedarburg City Hall, W63N645 Washington Avenue, upper level, Council Chambers.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Judy Jepson at 7:00 p.m.

Roll Call: Present – Judy Jepson, Tomi Fay Forbes, Tom Kubala, James Pape, Robert Ross, Council Member Barbara Lythjohan

Excused – Jeffrey Ellmaker, Doug Yip (alt.)

Also Present – City Planner Jon Censky

STATEMENT OF PUBLIC NOTICE

Chairperson Jepson acknowledged that the agenda for this meeting was posted and distributed in compliance with the Wisconsin Open Meetings Law.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion made by Commissioner Kubala, seconded by Commissioner Ross, to approve the minutes of the November 12, 2020 meeting. Motion carried without a negative vote with Commissioner Ellmaker excused.

COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS FROM CITIZENS – None

REGULAR BUSINESS

Consider Window Replacement on Building Located at W61N508-10 Washington Avenue; and Action Thereon

Petitioners Mike and Cindi Purnell purchased this circa 1890 building a few weeks ago. At this point, the original history of the building and early photographs are unknown. Although the building is not designated as pivotal, it is deemed a contributing building to the Washington Avenue Historic District. Mr. Purnell concluded that the present windows are probably not original to the building. He described them as being in poor condition as they are painted shut and have cracked panes. Their intention is to replace the windows in the entire building with an aluminum-clad window design with wood muntins adhered to give the appearance of true divided light. Commissioner Kubala advised that aluminum-clad windows are not permitted in the historic district. While exceptions have been made for the rear of buildings, the Commission insists on wood windows for the façade and ideally, for the entire building. Pella, the company providing the window proposal to the Petitioners, makes a wood window of the same size as the proposed aluminum-clad windows. Mr. Purnell was not aware that this was a requirement in the historic district but stated that they would agree to install wood windows and will work with the Commission.

Commissioner Kubala noted that the windows in the front façade of the building are six panes of glass on the upper sash over six panes of glass on the lower sash (also referred to as “six over

six”). He explained that this design is indicative of the Colonial Revival period in the early 1900s. Since this building predates this era, the replacement windows should be two over two, which would match the rest of the building, and would be considered the appropriate style for a building erected in this time period.

Action:

Commissioner Pape made a motion to accept the proposal to replace the windows on the condition that the windows are made of wood instead of aluminum-clad and are subject to further approval of City Staff and Commissioner Kubala. Commissioner Ross seconded the motion. Motion carried without a negative vote with Commissioner Ellmaker excused.

Consider New Sign Plan for Rebranding of Coldwell Banker Located at W61N517 Washington Avenue; and Action Thereon

Ramona Marena from Signs and Lines by Stretch was in attendance to present the new sign plan for Coldwell Banker. They are proposing to replace the existing projecting sign with one of similar size. Using the feedback provided by Building Inspector Mike Baier, Petitioner Marena assured the Commission that adjustments will be made to meet the required eight-foot clearance from the sidewalk and the design will be updated so that it does not swing.

Commissioner Forbes recalled a Landmarks discussion years ago when the present signage was installed that the number of signs on a building might be limited. Planner Censky advised that it is up to the discretion of the Commission. Commissioner Kubala observed that if the new sign panel were all white it would be more visually distracting. However, the blue background panel currently in place on the building will match the background of the proposed signage. He stated that he believes the new logo is more straightforward and is an improvement over the existing one. Council Member Lythjohan asked if the current lettering on both windows will be removed once the panel sign is added, to which Petitioner Marena confirmed its removal.

Action:

Council Member Lythjohan made a motion to approve the new signs with the condition that the lettering on the windows be removed. Commissioner Ross seconded the motion. Motion carried without a negative vote with Commissioner Ellmaker excused.

Discuss Verbiage of Recognition Plaque for the First Firehouse in Cedarburg Located at W63N658 Washington Avenue; and Action Thereon

During discussion of the awning change for his building at the Landmarks Commission meeting on August 27, 2020, Stanley Larson mentioned that his building was where Cedarburg’s first firehouse was located. He stated that he would like to place a historical sign on the front of the building in recognition and submitted a copy of the proposed wording to Planner Censky. This copy was provided to Commission members in the meeting packet for review and discussion.

Commissioner Pape asked if it can be confirmed that this was the location of the first firehouse. Chairperson Jepson stressed that she does not want to see plaques on numerous buildings that are not historically accurate. Planner Censky stated that although he cannot confirm at this meeting, he offered to investigate the history with the City and the Fire Department. Commissioner Ross stated he will ask his wife, Pat, to check her records as well. Commissioner Forbes pointed out

that educating the public can be beneficial in terms of both learning about Cedarburg and encouraging individuals to learn more about their hometown.

Commissioner Forbes proposed the following rewrite:

In 1867, Cedarburg's newly formed volunteer Fire Department purchased this lot. Volunteer firemen proceeded to build the community's first firehouse. Chief Friedreich Schatz envisioned a completely self-supporting fire company. Chief Schatz's tradition endures today. The Cedarburg Fire Department continues to provide excellent service to the community at no expense to the taxpayers. The volunteers of this highly respected department raise the funds themselves for ambulance, rescue squad and firefighting equipment.

Planner Censky added that at this time Mr. and Mrs. Larson are looking for feedback from the Commission.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Commissioner Ross, seconded by Commissioner Kubala, to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 p.m. Motion carried without a negative vote with Commissioner Ellmaker excused.

Tomi Fay Forbes
Secretary

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