

Minutes

Augusta Historic Preservation Commission

March 4, 2015

6:30 pm at City Center, Conference Room D

Members Present: Sylvia Hudson, Phyllis von Herrlich, Lorie Mastemaker, Andy Loman

Members Absent: Dale McCormick, Alison Sucey, Jerry Bumford

Others Present: Susan Redmond, Matt Nazar

Minutes. Motion by Phyllis von Herrlich to approve the February 4, 2015 minutes as drafted. Seconded by Andy Loman. All in favor. 4:0. Motion passed.

Demolition delay ordinance - discussion with Matt Nazar regarding possible changes to ordinance

Lorie Mastemaker:

- Commission interested in changing demolition and delay ordinance so that it is acceptable for Certified Local Government status.
- Want to submit ordinance to Robin Reed at Maine Historic Preservation Commission and ask for her opinion on what changes needed.

Matt Nazar:

- Will let the City Manager know what's desired
- City Council would probably be receptive to hearing set of recommended changes
- Process: Start with a City Council informational meeting. Staff presentation with Commission members present. Present issues and possible solutions (i.e. what other communities are doing; background: number of demolition permits reviewed, decision-making process, suggestions on how to improve process). Maybe take to a second informational meeting.

Phyllis von Herrlich:

Need a City Councilor to support sending ordinance to Robin for review?

Matt Nazar:

No - that's not necessary

Sylvia Hudson:

Once get comments back from state, then approach Council with recommended changes

Matt asked what changes the Commission wants to make. Responses included:

- Extend review period
- More time to pursue moving or deconstructing a building
- More information about inside of building

Commission will put together a list, submit it to Susan, and Susan will pass it on to Matt.

Museum in the Streets - report on inventory (Phyllis, Lorie)

Lorie Mastemaker and Phyllis von Herrlich met with Chris Blodgett at Public Works and took an inventory of the Museum in the Streets signs. The signs are stored in a heated building on pieces of cardboard placed on metal shelves. Chris moved the signs, which are heavy, so that they could be inspected and photographed. Lorie took notes on the condition of each sign and Phyllis photographed each one.

Lorie distributed a list of the condition of the signs and Phyllis showed a few examples of the photographs. Prior to the meeting, Susan Redmond copied all of the photographs to the server.

Spares:

-9 heads (top part that sign attaches directly to)

-6 poles

Chris wants to have more spares on hand. Lorie will contact Chris to clarify the quantities.

Phyllis thinks the following signs need to be replaced:

8 Strive to Excel!

11 Seeing the Elephants

13 The Great Augusta Bank Robbery

28 Bond Street

Pole adjustments need to be made. An inventory needs to be taken in the spring.

Motion by Sylvia Hudson to order replacement sign 8, 11, 13, and 28. Seconded by Andy Loman. All in favor. 4:0. Motion passed.

Preservation month. Andy Loman will be in charge of coordinating the event. Photographs will be up for May and June. 42 hanging sites.

Grants. Phyllis von Herrlich distributed an email from Matt Nazar to Susan Redmond which indicated that the Commission can apply for grants.

Augusta's great fire. Phyllis von Herrlich distributed a written description of Augusta's great fire (1865) that Anthony Douin of Maine State Archives wrote. This will be added to the April agenda.

The meeting ended at 8:00 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Susan Redmond.