



City of La Crosse, Wisconsin

City Hall
400 La Crosse Street
La Crosse, WI 54601

Meeting Minutes - Final

Heritage Preservation Commission

Thursday, January 18, 2018

6:00 PM

3rd Floor Conference Room

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:00pm.

Present: 6 - Charles Clemence, Terence R. Collins, Jessica Olson, Ariel Beaujot, Daniel Manke, David Riel

Excused: 1 - Chris Kahlow

Roll Call

Approval of Minutes

1. Approval of the December 21, 2018 Meeting Minutes.

Charles Clemence moved to approve the minutes. Ariel Beaujot seconded. The motion passed 6-0.

Agenda Items:

2. [18-0126](#)

Review and discussion of the proposed plan for a Cameroon Garden located at the International Friendship Gardens at Riverside Park.

Tom VanderLinden from the Riverside International Friendship Gardens Board presented to the Commission a proposed new garden. He stated that all of La Crosse's sister cities have gardens in the park except for Kumbo in the Republic of Cameroon. Tom stated that the garden is proposed to be located on the northwest corner of the LACVB building just west of the existing Irish garden. The garden would include sculptures, a reflecting pool, low, raised bed gardens, and rain gardens that will be catching rain runoff from the building. Pipes will run through the roof of the building and out through the side wall into tanks. Tom also stated that the project is still in its preliminary design but wanted to get feedback from the Commission as it does impact the building which is a local designated building. David Riel asked if there were any elevations or renderings yet. Tom stated that there were none yet. Tom then stated that one conceptual design included a canopy over the entrance into the garden and the canopy would be a leaf-like design. David Riel stated that design of the garden should include feedback from representatives from Cameroon. Tom stated that the design committee of the garden does include several members of the organization that have been to Kumbo. Ariel Beaujot asked what the proposed statues would be of. Tom stated indicated the proposed locations of the statues but was not sure what they would be of yet. Jessica Olson asked if the gutters from the roof could be reconfigured so they did not run through the building. Ariel suggested that running the water through the building may actually be historically accurate as the building was once a fish hatchery. Charles Clemence stated that their role in review is the building itself and the general sentiment is to disturb as little of the building as possible. To try other solutions first. David Riel suggested trying to install the piping through existing openings if possible, Try and prevent boring through the walls if possible. Terry Collins asked if water was still collected through the building today. Tom stated that he was unsure. David Riel asked if this was a City project. Tom stated that organization was a non-profit that partners with the City on the International Garden. No action was taken on this item.

3. [18-0127](#)

Review of a Certificate of Appropriateness for the building located at 308 Main Street. (Grounded)

Maria Norberg, owner of Grounded Specialty Coffee, updated the Commission on the status of her project that was presented to them on April 2017. The outdoor patio, new entrance, and canopy are finished and she is currently working with Downtown Mainstreet, Inc to submit a Facade Improvement Program application for her next phase. This next phase includes the removal of the paint in order to expose the brick, tuckpointing, and a new sign. Maria reminded the Commission of her request in her previous application to remove the entrance on Main Street and install a window that was flush with the rest of the windows. She stated that the Commission denied this part of her project and suggested that a planter be placed in front of the door to deter customers trying to use it as an entrance. Maria provided the Commission with a picture of the planter. Maria then stated that she is before the Commission requesting them to re-evaluate their past decision and would still like to remove the entrance and install a window that is flush with the existing windows. She explained that a table was lost due to the new entrance and would be able to be replaced in the space that would be gained by removing the entrance and installing the window. She also added that an additional table in a retail space as limited in size as hers can be as much as \$25,000 in additional revenue a year. Maria also stated that in her effort to research the exterior of the building she had determined that the existing storefront is not completely original and had been changed several times, including changes made to make the entrance ADA compliant. She then stated that she was unable to find a photo evidence of the previous storefronts. Terry Collins asked staff what the design standards is requiring. Staff stated that the standard requires that historic entries and storefront display windows be retained. Staff then stated that if the current look is how it was originally built then it should be preserved. However, if there is evidence that it is not original than further evaluation may be needed. David Riel asked if photo evidence of any previous storefronts were found and they show the storefront as it is now would she keep the existing storefront. Maria stated that he desire is to remove the entrance. Jessica Olson stated that, as a business owner, she understood her situation and was sympathetic to her argument. She then stated that there are standards and requirements to follow and may times it can lead to lost revenue for businesses. Charles Clemence stated that the usual criteria when reviewing these requests are that it does not disturb the historic fabric, or historic significance, of the building; its reversible; and that you are not creating fake history. Jessica Olson thanked Maria for her investment in La Crosse's Downtown . Charles Clemence moved to close the public hearing. Terry Collins seconded. The motion passed 6-0. Charles Clemence moved to deny the application. David Riel seconded. Terry Collins asked if the Commission might refer the item in order to give the applicant time to find photographic evidence of the previous storefronts. Charles Clemence stated that he was not in favor of referring the item. The motion passed 6-0.

4. Update on Memorial Pool from the Heritage Preservation Commission liason.

Jessica Olson stated that there was no real update at this time. The next real update will occur around the March 31st deadline for plans/estimates set by the Common Council.

5. Discussion on the proposed Cass Street historic streetscaping project.

Staff informed the Commission about the 2018 Capital Budget project to reconstruct Cass Street from approximately 7th/8th Street to West Ave. The project is to include historic streetscaping through the 10th & Cass Historic District. Chris Kahlow had suggested to staff that the Commission be included in the preliminary design process. The Commission agreed to have staff work with the Engineering Department on pedestrian scale streetscaping through the historic district.

Adjournment

Terry Collins moved to adjourn the meeting. Charles Clemence seconded. The motion passed 6-0. The meeting was adjourned at 6:55pm.

Notice is further given that members of other governmental bodies may be present at the above scheduled meeting to gather information about a subject over which they have decision-making responsibility.

NOTICE TO PERSONS WITH A DISABILITY

Requests from persons with a disability who need assistance to participate in this meeting should call the City Clerk's office at (608) 789-7510 or send an email to ADAcityclerk@cityoflacrosse.org, with as much advance notice as possible.