

**CITY OF AURORA
OHIO
LANDMARK COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
April 17, 2008**

The Aurora Landmark Commission met in a regularly scheduled meeting on Thursday, April 17, 2008, in the Council Chambers of Aurora City Hall. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman John Kudley.

ROLL CALL:

Present::	John Kudley Sue Sutton Tom Spape Melanie Miguel-Courtad
Absent:	Richard Fetzer
Also Present:	Ron Lowe, Advisor to Landmark Commission Karen Mitchell, Liaison - Aurora Historical Society Susan Dombeck, Secretary

AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA:

MOTION: To add the Town Center Landscape Plan to the agenda under New Business.

Mr. Spape moved for approval; Mrs. Sutton seconded, and the motion carried, 4-0, on a voice vote.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

MOTION: To approve the minutes of the January 17, 2008 meeting as printed.

Mrs. Sutton moved for approval; Mr. Kudley seconded, and the motion carried, 4-0, on a voice vote.

MOTION: To approve the minutes of the January 24, 2008 special meeting as printed.

Mr. Spape moved for approval; Mrs. Sutton seconded, and the motion carried, 4-0, on a voice vote.

MOTION: To approve the minutes of the February 21, 1008 meeting as printed.

Mrs. Sutton moved for approval; Mr. Spape seconded, and the motion carried, 4-0, on a voice vote.

MOTION: To approve the minutes of the March 20, 2008 meeting as printed.

Mr. Kudley moved for approval; Mrs. Sutton seconded, and the motion carried, 4-0, on a voice vote.

NEW BUSINESS:

B. & M. POZNIAK, 282 SOUTH CHILLICOTHE - FRONT & REAR ADDITION TO DRIVEWAY

Mr. Lowe said that the proposal is for a turn-around drive in the front and additional paving in the rear of the lot. The house has been undergoing some improvements, and is next door to the newer house that was constructed about a year ago. Mr. Lowe stated that when the drive was put in for the new house, a concrete pad was put in the front of the lot. That same idea is being proposed for this site. The pad in the rear, which is to be next to the garage, is to be 12 feet by 29 feet.

Mr. Pozniak explained the problems with backing out of the driveway onto the street. The pad proposed for the front would help them to turn the vehicle around to pull directly out onto the street.

Mrs. Sutton began a short conversation on the review of the plan for the new house next door to this site. She wondered how the pad in the front was installed without the commission's approval.

Mr. Lowe inquired about the pad proposed for the rear area. Mr. Pozniak explained that the front turn around will be about 20 feet from both the road and the house. He stressed that the pad in the front will not be used for parking cars, only for use as a turn-around area. Mr. Lowe started a discussion on the requirements for parking in the city, the condition of the house before it was purchased by Mr. Pozniak, and cars being parking on the front pad.

Some members expressed objections to the front pad, but Mrs. Courtad pointed out that people are being encouraged to move into the older houses then meet resistance when trying to improve them or make them more livable. She thought that some people would stop wanting to move into those older homes. A conversation followed on that issue.

Mr. Pozniak offered to make the front pad too short to have cars parking on it but large enough to be used as a turn-around. He said that it would be concrete, not asphalt.

After some additional discussion about the front pad, Mrs. Sutton said that, because the house is on such a busy street, she thought that an exception could be made because of the heavy traffic.

Mrs. Mitchell suggested having the pad as part of the landscaping, e.g., as gravel instead of concrete.

MOTION: To approve the plan.

Mrs. Courtad moved for approval; Mrs. Sutton seconded, and the motion was **DEFEATED**, 2-2, on a roll call vote.

Yeas: Mrs. Courtad, Mrs. Sutton
Nays: Mr. Spape, Mr. Kudley

There was some conversation on considering the rear portion of the plan only for approval. Suggestions were made on how to put the motion together.

MOTION: To approve the proposed rear parking area and the two foot addition to the width of the drive.

Mr. Spape moved for approval; Mrs. Sutton seconded, and the motion carried, 4-0, on a roll call vote.

Yeas: Mr. Spape, Mrs. Sutton, Mrs. Courtad, Mr. Kudley
Nays: None

Mrs. Courtad mentioned that, since the entire plan was denied 2-2, the applicant can return later on before the full five member commission with a plan for the front.

TOWN CENTER LANDSCAPING PLAN

Mr. Kudley gave some background on the Town Center plan. Mayor McGill stated that City Council preferred to landscape the corner area. He said that funds were donated to purchase and plant some trees. He asked that the commission approve the plan for ten trees to be placed on the site. Mayor McGill explained that they are salt tolerant but would be placed back from the street enough of a distance to make it easier to deal with the salt.

MOTION: To approve the plan for the Town Center.

Mr. Spape moved for approval; Mrs. Sutton seconded, and the motion carried, 4-0, on a roll call vote.

Yeas: Mr. Spape, Mrs. Sutton, Mrs. Courtad, Mr. Kudley
Nays: None

Mayor McGill told the members that 28 Sweet Gum trees are planned for the cemetery area.

Mr. Lowe said that he would follow up on the pad installed for the new house next to Mr. Pozniak and report back to the Landmark Commission at the next meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

SEWARD-GILES CEMETERY - BRIDGE AND BENCHES

Mr. Lowe said that the sign work is going to the contractor. The Kennedy stones have been moved to the site. He noted that the contractor returned to the city regarding the budget because of the bridge, piers and additional work on the property. Mr. Lowe pointed out that \$28,000 was planned for the bridge. The total for the pier work was \$7,500, and the total for the flood plain study was \$7,600. He stated that when those prices were returned they were under the budget for the bridge and study. The flood plain study determined the height placement of the bridge, which was about 5 feet higher than originally planned. The contractor wanted to ramp slowly upwards toward the bridge for that five feet rather than install steps. The extra

grading, however, would cost about \$10,000. Mr. Lowe told the members that after re-evaluating, the contractor located another company to provide the bridge that was approved and in the same time frame. He then distributed colored photos showing how the proposed bridge would look. It would be very similar to the original with the same decking material. The budget for the new bridge would be about \$17,000. The piers are about half the price, and the grading up to the bridge is a new item for the budget. The net change would be about \$10,000.

Mr. Lowe said that Ross Brankatelli of the Engineering Department asked that it be brought before the Landmark Commission to approve the change order and to have it taken to the Finance Committee. He said that a motion is needed to approve the change order and to have it sent to the Finance Committee.

MOTION: To approve the new bridge design and fabricator.

Mrs. Sutton moved for approval; Mrs. Courtad seconded, and the motion carried, 4-0, on a voice vote.

MOTION: To send the change order in the amount of \$10,005 for the project's budget to the Finance Committee.

Mr. Kudley moved for approval; Mrs. Courtad seconded, and the motion carried, 4-0, on a voice vote.

Mr. Lowe then showed the members pictures of furniture to consider for the site. Two benches are to be placed there. They all reviewed the bench designs and decided on a style to be used.

Mr. Spape commented that if an American flag is flown on the site at night without lighting, he would strongly voice his objections.

MISCELLANEOUS:

Mrs. Courtad raised the subject of residents moving forward with plans for their property without receiving approvals. Mr. Lowe said that the problem is actually two issues. One being loopholes, and the other being the question of backing for the inspectors. A brief conversation on the issue of submittals followed. Mr. Lowe read aloud the penalty section of the commission's code section, and additional discussion ensued.

Mrs. Courtad asked about doing an event this year, and Mr. Kudley said that the dedication of the bridge is the planned event.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mrs. Courtad moved to adjourn at 8:05 p.m. ; Mrs. Sutton seconded, and the motion carried, 4-0, on a voice vote.