

CITY OF AURORA
OHIO
LANDMARK COMMISSION
Meeting Minutes
February 23, 2010

The Aurora Landmark Commission met in a regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, February 23, 2010, 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
	Melanie Miguel-Courtad
	Richard Fetzer
	Tom Spape
Absent:	Sue Sutton
Also Present:	Ron Lowe, Advisor to Landmark Commission
	Karen Mitchell, Liaison – Aurora Historical Society
	Susan Dombeck, Secretary

AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA:

There were no amendments to the agenda.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

MOTION: To approve the minutes of January 26, 2010 as printed.

Mr. Kudley moved for approval; Mr. Fetzer seconded, and the motion carried, 3-0-1 on a voice vote.

OLD BUSINESS:

THE CHURCH IN AURORA, 156 SOUTH CHILLICOTHE – APPLICATION FOR AN OHIO HISTORICAL SOCIETY MARKER

Mr. Lowe stated that he did a rough draft of the text. He explained what he suggested for each side of the marker and said he would welcome any comments. Mr. Kudley explained that the church's committee would look at the draft this week and offer input if necessary.

Mr. Lowe said that the sign will go before the Landmark Commission, but it is an exempt sign so it does not need approval or a permit from the city. He commented that he would keep Mr. Werenberg informed of the text and location of the sign. He then gave some background on the proposed text for the signs.

NEW BUSINESS:

**ORCHID FASHION BOUTIQUE, 332 EAST GARFIELD ROAD (BOWEN BUILDING) –
CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS FOR A SIGN**

Jack Burge represented the applicant and said that they wanted to apply for a Certificate of Appropriateness. Mr. Lowe explained that the building has gone through several changes over the years. In recent years steps have been added to the front and some of the brick has been repaired. Mr. Lowe said that signage on any of the glass would not help since the building is so far back from the road. He referred to the bolder signage proposed and stated that it is probably appropriate. He added that a sign extending from the building wouldn't help because it would be too hard to see.

Mr. Lowe said the only issue he had was whether the sign should have just lettering or lettering with a background. Mr. Burge said that the existing background would be improved and then used as the background for the lettering. He inspected it and is comfortable that it can be used, but he can't predict how long it would last. Mr. Lowe thought it may be the best way to go rather than drill into the old brick to erect a new sign. He said that the old signage is already there and attached to the building.

Mr. Burge told the members that the sign was previously for a music business, so the cleft marks on either side of the top of the sign will be removed. The lettering would then be applied to the existing ribbon bands that form the sign over the window with the addition of small floral orchids on each side of the bottom word. He then presented a sample of the proposed lettering and color.

There was a conversation on the design of the sign, and Mr. Burge confirmed that there would not be a border on it. He then explained that there was so much black pigment in the purple that from the road it would look almost black. He said he cautioned the owner on the darkness, but she is determined to have that color for the lettering.

There was a discussion on the proposed color versus black as well as the floral design on the bottom half. Mr. Kudley took issue with allowing the dark purple when there could be other signs proposed for other businesses in the building, especially if a uniformity in signs is desired. Further conversation followed.

Mr. Burge felt that the proposed color seems appropriate to the business. Mr. Kudley expressed concern with the suggested color, but Mr. Fetzer was more concerned about the floral designs to be placed on the bottom than the color. Mr. Lowe mentioned that the purple color doesn't complement the building. Mr. Spape reminded the others of the distance the building is from the street. Mr. Kudley said his preference would be to use black and allow the floral design.

Mr. Burge said he would really not want to use black for this type of business. Also, not knowing what other type of businesses would move in can make it difficult to predict future signage. Mr. Kudley said his concern is that it is a historic building in a historic district.

Mrs. Courtad stated that if the letters look black from the road she may not have much of a problem with the dark purple. Per an inquiry by Mr. Kudley, Mr. Burge said that he did not think that any lighting was planned for the sign. Mr. Kudley informed Mr. Burge that if it is decided to put lighting on the sign then that plan would have to return to this commission for approval.

MOTION: To approve the sign submitted.

Mrs. Courtad moved for approval; Mr. Fetzer seconded, and the motion carried, 3-1, on a roll call vote.

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

MISCELLANEOUS:

UPDATE OF ITEMS BY MR. LOWE

Mr. Lowe explained that two houses, 50 and 73 South Chillicothe, went to the building department regarding some maintenance items. 50 South Chillicothe wanted to put on a new roof, and 73 South Chillicothe wanted to replace windows and siding. He said that the contractors came in and picked up permits, and they both were also part of the tax abatement program for maintenance and repair in the city. Mr. Lowe stated that the two addresses were put through by the department's front desk without being sent to this commission first. He told the members that maps and a list of addresses are now at the front desk so submittals can be checked to see if they need to appear before this commission.

Mr. Lowe said that he visited both properties and explained to the members the type of work that was done. He said that the work on 73 South Chillicothe looks good, while the work on 50 South Chillicothe has not yet been started.

Mr. Kudley said that at the previous Council meeting, the contract for Larry Selzer to do the historic valuation of city properties was on the agenda. The properties are the Harmon properties, the Hartman property and the Chesnes property. Since the Chesnes property is up for sale, Council asked if this commission has another property in mind to replace the Chesnes property. If not, the contract will just be re-negotiated to include only the remaining sites. A discussion on the maintenance of the properties and their out buildings ensued. Further conversation followed on other properties and buildings, and the members decided to add the Spring Hill Farm property to the list if it does come into the city's possession.

MOTION: To recommend to City Council that the Spring Hill Farm, the Sheldon property, if it comes into the city's possession, be included in the contract for historic valuation.

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

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Spape moved to adjourn at 7:385 p.m.; Mrs. Courtad seconded, and the motion carried, 4-0, on a voice vote.

John Kudley - Chairman

Susan Dombeck - Secretary
AUDIO TAPE ON FILE