

CITY OF AURORA
OHIO
LANDMARK COMMISSION
Meeting Minutes
September 28, 2010

The Aurora Landmark Commission met in a regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, September 28, 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: Sue Sutton
John Kudley
Richard Fetzer
Jeff Clark
Melanie Miguel-Courtad (arrived 7:10)

Also Present: Ron Lowe, Advisor to Landmark Commission
Karen Mitchell, Liaison to 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 August 24, 2010 as printed.

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

OLD BUSINESS:

SCRAP DYNAMICS CORPORATION – CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS FOR WALL SIGN – 11 WEST GARFIELD ROAD

James Thome, the applicant, was present. Mr. Lowe explained that the two free standing signs were approved at an earlier meeting; however, the wall sign was denied. Mr. Thome said that he applied for permits as soon as he discovered they were necessary.

Mr. Kudley said that the concern was with the sign going across the archway, because it isn't consistent with the historical nature of the building. Mr. Thome expressed confusion regarding the concern. Mr. Lowe described the sign as not fitting the porch design and defeating the architectural styling of the porch. Another issue was the scale of the letters on the sign as well as the dimensions of the sign. He suggested that the applicant consider placing the sign at another location on the building.

Mr. Thome gave background information on the business and explained how he made the signs. He disagreed that the sign aesthetics did not fit the building. He stated that he spoke with Rich Wehrenberg and the sign meets the code requirements. Mr. Thome reiterated that he felt the sign does not mar the aesthetics of the building or porch. He noted that it identifies the entrance of the business. A discussion on sign locations and business identification followed.

Mr. Thome raised the subject of the condition of the Allstate sign located on the same building.

Mr. Clark explained the background and process for that sign.

Mr. Thome questioned the aesthetics of the Allstate sign and wondered why the members had issues with his sign. A discussion followed regarding the sign's location on the building as well as the design.

It was suggested that the owner consider a few options, those being a curved sign at the top of the arch, a sign on the wall between the door and window, or have the sign hang from the porch at a perpendicular angle. A conversation ensued, and Mr. Thome agreed to consider amending the design so that it would curve over the arch and submit it for a future meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

BUILDING AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE:

Landmark representation to attend October meeting of Building and Grounds Committee

It was decided that Mr. Lowe would attend the meeting on October 12th to represent the Landmark Commission.

Preservation study: Provide comments on involvement

Mr. Kudley explained that the Building and Grounds Committee asked for input and ideas on what the city should do for its major historic properties. Mr. Lowe said that when working with Mr. Selzer on the study they tried to develop a maintenance plan for each building. Council requested amounts for the maintenance as well. In that report there are some issues and recommendations for maintenance and amounts that are prioritized.

Mr. Kudley mentioned that the Aurora Historical Society was approached from a historic standpoint on the use of the properties and whether the society is interested in using any sites. The AHS put together a plan on the interest and uses.

Mr. Kudley asked the members to review the reports and offer any input they may have. He stated that it could be a long range plan that would involve parts of city government relocating to a site, e.g. the Parks and Recreation Department to offices in another building elsewhere. He commented that some people have suggested having Ray Harmon's farm leased out as a working farm.

Mr. Clark said that a group called the Countryside Conservancy that works in the area that matches people who want to farm with those who own farms.

Mr. Kudley said that City Council is asking for information from the AHS and this commission. Mr. Lowe stated that most of the initial items have to do with preserving the buildings from the top down. The second portion then deals with funds for handicapped requirements, heating, etc. He said that a consideration could be long term leases for \$1.00 a year but with the stipulation that a minimum amount of funds be put back into the site to be a specific type of use.

Mr. Lowe suggested that the members develop a list of different activities, or uses, that the city might consider for a lease. In summary, he thought that the buildings should be locally

landmarked, put on the national register and offer a very inexpensive lease. A conversation about some of the sites followed.

Ms. Mitchell suggested having someone from the conservancy organization attend a meeting so that members can learn about the organization as well as the process. Mr. Kudley asked Mr. Clark to make contact about possibly having someone at the next commission meeting, and Mr. Clark agreed.

It was noted that the Law Director prefers that the city not get into the "landlord" type situation, and Ms. Mitchell suggested inviting him to attend the organization's presentation to learn about how they are hired as the landlord.

Mr. Clark felt that the city should consider rezoning some of the sites.

MISCELLANEOUS:

Mr. Kudley raised the subject of a memo from Al Hall regarding some signs in violation. Mr. Clark remarked that the ABR was told that there is not much enforcement of sign issues. Mr. Kudley explained that the commission must remain consistent and the members agreed. Further conversation on landmarked properties ensued.

There was a brief discussion on the Ohio Historical Society Membership Renewal. The members decided to renew at the History Lover level.

MOTION: To approve the renewal for the OHS Membership.

Mr. Fetzer moved for approval; Mrs. Sutton seconded, and the motion carried, 5-0, on a roll call vote.

Yeas: Mr. Fetzer, Mrs. Sutton, Mrs. Courtad, Mr. Clark, Mr. Kudley
Nays: None

Mr. Kudley announced that the commission's Certified Local Government performance evaluation was conducted by the Ohio Historical Society and there were no deficiencies found.

Mr. Kudley stated that the Church in Aurora marker was paid for and is on the list for production.

Mr. Clark said he would like to see more properties landmarked, and he asked if the budget for next year could be increased for possible professional services and small plaques for landmarked homes. He agreed to look into the cost of plaques for the commission to consider.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mrs. Sutton moved to adjourn at 8:15 p.m.; Mr. Clark seconded, and the motion carried, 5-0, on a voice vote.

AUDIO TAPE ON FILE