

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMITTEE MINUTES

November 10, 2016, 3:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Chairman Alderman Tim Meehean, Alderman Paul Russell, Jeremy Thompson, Bea Lebal, and Zoning Administrator Pagel

Absent: Mike Weckwerth

Also present: Noreen Salzman, Marv Anderson, Bev King, Carol Michalowski, Administrator Dave Johnson

Chairman Meehean called the meeting to order at 3:00pm

Public comment: Bev King, spoke of State and National requirements and a History of the City of Merrill Historical process. Carol Michalowski expressed her concerns about the property at 607 Cedar St. and her opposition to the project.

Chairman Meehean read the request from Noreen Salzman, 607 Cedar St. Ms. Salzman and Mr. Anderson, her contractor, stated that the deck and ramp would be constructed consistent with the color and railing style of the existing house. There would not be any exposed treated lumber when completed. The Committee reviewed the City's Preservation standards. Carol Michalowski, 1300 E 7th St., spoke in opposition to any modifications to the property and also wanted to discuss the Common Council previously approved Conditional Use. Chairman Meehean reiterated to Ms. Michalowski that this was not the purpose of this meeting and asked her to refrain from future comments concerning that subject. ZA Pagel stated the purpose of the Committee was to review the aesthetics of the proposed project and if they fit the character of the house. Alderman Russell asked if the City standards were ever approved at the State or Federal Historic level. Since the standards were established in 2000, no definitive answer could be given. Bev King, stated that the City was required to follow and enforce State and Federal requirements. Bea Lebal stated she felt that the applicant had met the City guidelines with the proposed design. Mr. Thompson also discussed past practices and the overall construction of the deck and ramp. The entire Committee then discussed the perceived role of the Committee in regard to local, State, and National requirements.

Motion by Alderman Russell to send the drawings of the proposed project to the State Historical Society for their review, second Mr. Thompson.

The Committee then further discussed the requirements and duty of the Committee. **At the conclusion of the discussion Alderman Russell withdrew his motion, seconded by Mr. Thompson.**

Motion to approve the historic/building permit application by Mr. Thompson, second Mrs. Lebal, with the condition that the construction and color closely match the existing house, carried unanimously.

Fire Station update: Alderman Russell wanted to give the Committee an update on the possible direction of the Old First St. Firestation. The preliminary direction would be to remove the newer addition and apparatus bays and restore the building back closer to its original look. The consensus of the Committee was very positive. It was also the consensus of the Committee that ZA Pagel and Attorney Hayden clarify for a future meeting the role of the Committee.

Motion to adjourn Mr. Thompson, second Alderman Russell, carried.

Meeting adjourned 4:10pm

Darin Pagel, Recording Secretary.