



LANDMARKS COMMISSION

MINUTES

January 3, 2024

6:00 p.m.

Hybrid – Council Chambers

Approved: February 7, 2024

Call to Order

Commission Chair Jim Jansen called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

6:00 p.m.

Roll Call

Members present: Jim Jansen, Chad Robinson, Bill Ryals, Camron Settlemier

Members absent: Jolene Thomson (excused), Mason Cox (excused), Rayne Legras

Approval of Minutes

6:01 p.m..

Motion: Commissioner Robinson moved to approve the minutes from October 4, 2023. Commissioner Settlemier seconded the motion. Commissioners voted in favor 4-0.

Business from the Public

6:02 p.m.

Chris Gustafson, of Vintage Window Restoration who holds educational workshops on restoration techniques has been communicating with Cumberland Community Center about doing a small May Historic Preservation Month workshop in window restoration for four and a half days. He came before the Commission to provide an introduction to what he can provide and is looking for sponsorships and possibly a tourism grant to broaden its reach and promote Albany. The workshop will involve a full restoration process on five of Cumberland Community Center's windows. Contractors, locals and out of area folks are targeted in marketing efforts. He will be looking at a City of Albany's Tourism Grant and potential State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) sponsorship as well as other sponsorships to fill the budget gap in trying to keep the cost low or free, if possible, for participants.

Business from Staff

6:18 p.m.

- Cumberland Church National Register Nomination

Alyssa Schrems, Planner II, provided a brief introduction to the process for making a recommendation for listing the Cumberland Church to the National Register. The State Historic Preservation Office will be reviewing the Church's application for approval to the Federal office. The Commission, in its advisory capacity, has been given the opportunity to review the nomination and provide opinions and recommendations. The recommendation would be provided to the State Office by letter to assist with their review. If approved it would be passed on to the federal level. The State meeting is in mid-February. The Commission is just advisory, not a formal decision maker.

Liz Rapp, who has been researching the Cumberland Church was present to provide a detailed background on the church's history. She noted the original location of the church in the center of the Hackleman land claim. It was built in 1892 and was accepted for consideration to the National Register under Architectural Criteria C. The architect was Wilhelm J. Bennett who designed it in the Queen Anne architectural style with elaborate ornamentation, gothic arches and peaks and ornate moldings and glass windows. Queen Anne Style churches are very rare. Criteria B was related to the building move from the original location which was recommended in 2017 to save it from demolition, while remaining in the Hackleman Land Claim area. The geographic orientation was maintained as well. It is considered by historians as one of the five most historic church buildings in Albany. She added that receiving the Historic Landmark designation would help to preserve it over time and add to its notoriety.

Commissioner Jansen remarked that there aren't many buildings aside from homes that are national historic landmarks in Albany.

Commissioner Ryals noted that there are three guidelines under which these designations generally move forward. The Cumberland Church could qualify under all three. One is that it is a unique or excellent example of Queen Anne style; also, that it qualifies under the work of a master, which W.J. Bennett was at the time, and that the building is significant of an historic event or location.

Rapp noted the original location was three or four blocks east of the outer edge of the Hackleman Historic District and it remains on Santiam Rd itself on the National Historic Register.

Schrems shared that the next step would be to vote on their level of support to put in the letter to the State Historic Preservation Office. SHPO asked for this report to help them decide if the application should move forward.

Lynn Larson, with Preservation Works in Corvallis voiced her support for the listing on the National Register.

Commissioner Ryals noted that SHPO always has concern that restorations will be completed, and a lot of work has been done to date. He agreed on a Letter of Recommendation which should indicate that the Commission supports the listing fully appreciating the laborious requirements of the restoration and technically detailed work that needs to happen and emphasizing that the Commission wholeheartedly supports this.

Motion: Commissioner Ryals moved that the commission support the Cumberland Church National Register Nomination, with a Letter of Recommendation without reservation. Commissioner Robinson seconded the motion, which passed 4-0.

Commissioner Jansen wanted clarity on the status and process of a re-submission for any alterations for the building. Schrems noted any alterations to the building would have to come to the Commission for review.

Commissioner Ryals shared that the listing will be a determining factor in any additions/alterations to the building in the future, but listing will help with any fundraising efforts, tax status, respect, and protection.

Schrems shared that it would go to the State Hearing on February 16 and if approved it goes to Washington D.C. by March 1, 2024. Emma Eaton (private citizen) commented that anyone who would like to provide support should feel encouraged to testify at the State meeting. Ryals agreed that those testimonies are helpful.

- Article 7 Update – Member Participation

6:58 p.m.

Current Planning Manager, David Martineau shared a brief update on Article 7 revisions. He shared that they have designed three different surveys. One a social media-based survey, another a survey of owners of historic properties in Albany and the third a set of focus group questions. Those surveys are being vetted and he will bring the details to the Commission at the next meeting. He requested having one Landmark Commission member commit to attending the Focus Group survey meetings. Settlemier and Robinson volunteered.

Martineau noted that Historic Preservation Month is coming up in May. Commissioner Jansen suggested beginning work on those plans in February if possible.

Schrems reminded the members that Albany is eligible for the Certified Local Government (CLG) grant this year. She asked members to consider what types of funding should be applied for. Commissioner Robinson noted the importance of the pass-through grants. Schrems suggested pass-through grants and some money be earmarked for educational opportunities and training. She said the grant opportunities are highly sought after. Commissioner Robinson and Commissioner Ryals shared additional thoughts.

All the members agreed on using grant money for pass-through grants (\$9,999) and remainder to funding education/training. Commissioner Jansen asked if the publication/distribution of promotional materials

would come under the educational part of the grant. Schrems agreed that would be considered educational outreach and training. Schrems will get the application prepared and given to the State.

Business from the Commission

Members were reminded to come to the next meeting prepared with ideas for Preservation Month.

Next Meeting Date

The next regularly scheduled meeting is on Wednesday, February 7, 2024.

Adjournment

Hearing no further business, Chair Jansen adjourned the meeting at 7:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Signature on file

Susan Muniz
Recorder

Reviewed by,

Signature on file

David Martineau
Current Planning Manager

**Documents discussed at the meeting that are not in the agenda packet are archived in the record. The documents are available by emailing cdaa@cityofalbany.net.*