



City of McMinnville
Planning Department
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MINUTES

August 23, 2017
Historic Landmarks Committee
Regular Meeting

3:00 pm
Community Development Center
McMinnville, Oregon

Members Present: Chair Joan Drabkin, John Mead, Rebecca Quandt, and Cory Schott
Members Absent: Mary Beth Branch
Staff Present: Chuck Darnell - Associate Planner
Others Present Waldo Farhnam, Kellie Menke, and Alan Ruden

1. Call to Order

Chair Drabkin called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

2. Citizen Comments – None

3. Approval of Minutes

A. May 24, 2017 Meeting Minutes

Committee Member Quandt moved to approve the May 24, 2017 meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Committee Member Mead and passed 4-0.

4. Action Items – None

5. Discussion Items

A. Historic Sign Program

Associate Planner Darnell said at the last meeting there had been discussion regarding the amortization program for sign regulations and whether some signs should be designated as historic. If a sign was deemed historic it would be protected and was not subject to the sign regulations. Staff would like direction on whether to include signs in the process for the historic resources inventory nominations or to create a process for signs which would be a legislative amendment process. Staff thought the existing criteria could be applied to signs. Associate Planner Darnell passed out the process for creating a historic designation that was in the code.

Since signs were tied to a business, if a business were to change, there needed to be a way to remove the designation. Mr. Farhnam was invited to the meeting because he had a sign that was being impacted by the amortization process and he would like his sign to be designated as historic.

Mr. Farhnam showed pictures of his sign and told its history. He was 7 or 8 years old when the sign was created in the 1940s and he told how he would bring it in every night and put it back up every morning on 3rd and Cowls. He then discussed how the sign was moved to different locations on 3rd and 4th and how it had been painted the Westinghouse colors. They were no longer with Westinghouse and he would like to repaint it a darker blue with white or red letters, which were its original colors. He had a different sign up where this sign used to be near the entrance of the building and he would like to put the original sign back up after restoring it to working order. It was a neon sign that was currently not operational.

Committee Member Quandt clarified this sign was currently not in compliance. If it was not designated as a historic sign, was there any other way to allow it? Associate Planner Darnell said that was correct, due to the height the sign it was out of compliance. The owner would have to get a variance or exception to the sign standards.

Chair Drabkin thought the sign was historic, its style and design was of a certain era, the integrity of the sign was fine, and she thought it was worth keeping.

Associate Planner Darnell said if the Committee thought it was worth preserving, the owner could come back with an application for an official review.

Committee Member Mead thought there was value in preserving historic signs in the community. They should stick to the existing process, and not create new legislation.

Associate Planner Darnell said one of the HLC's duties was to do inventories and if there were other signs the Committee wanted to consider historic, the Committee could nominate signs as well. He discussed examples of signs that they might want to be preserved. If a new business went in and wanted to remove a designated sign, they would have to get approval from the HLC.

Chair Drabkin suggested in those cases that the historic sign be taken to a museum so it was not thrown away.

City Councilor Kellie Menke thought they could be considered art and could go to the Art Committee to be displayed somewhere.

Associate Planner Darnell said as part of the de-nomination process, there could be a condition that the applicant had to advertise the sign for someone to pick up and preserve or the City could take it and potentially display it.

There was discussion regarding other signs being brought into compliance through the amortization process.

Committee Member Schott agreed it was appropriate for historic signs to be designated and that the existing process should be used.

6. Old/New Business – None**7. Committee/Commissioner Comments – None****8. Staff Comments**

Associate Planner Darnell gave an update on the This Place Matters program which would begin in September. The Committee could send staff pictures and background information, and staff would put them up on social media.

Committee Member Schott suggested letting the public know the resources available for doing research on their own properties. People could be directed to the Library and Yamhill Historical Society.

9. Adjournment

Chair Drabkin adjourned the meeting at 3:47 p.m.