



Agenda Item #: 4

Project Title: Creating a New Historic Marker Program and installing up to six new makers in 2024

Legistar File ID #: 82639

Prepared By: Heather Bailey, Preservation Planner

Members: Present: Richard Arnesen, Edna Ely-Ledesma, Molly Harris, Katie Kaliszewski, Ald. Amani Latimer Burris, Jacob Morrison, and Maurice Taylor

Summary

Bailey explained the proposal to remove the existing sesquicentennial historic markers and create a new Historic Places Marker Program. The 2020 Historic Preservation Plan recommended that plaques be placed to help with storytelling throughout the City. The new program includes designing the markers and identifying locations for six initial markers. The Landmarks Commission will approve the overall program first, then staff will return with proposed language for the markers that the commission will review as the guiding body for this program.

Taylor asked how quickly they might put the new signs up. Bailey said that the removal of the old signs will be fairly quick. Staff is currently working on draft language and consulting with the Ho-Chunk Tribal Historic Preservation Office during this process. Bailey said that they hope to get the new markers installed this year.

Morrison referenced public comment about the name of Lake Mendota. He said the staff report acknowledged that part of the program is consulting with the stakeholder, so whatever their preference is would be honored. He thought the comment was worthwhile to recognize, and it should be addressed by this proposal.

Action

A motion was made by Morrison, seconded by Arnesen, to approve the Historic Places Marker Program; approve removal of the existing Sesquicentennial Markers; and approve the selection of the first six markers and have staff return to the Landmarks Commission with the final historic marker language, location, and process for selecting additional historic markers in the future. The motion passed by voice vote/other.