

AGENDA # 5

City of Madison, Wisconsin

REPORT OF: LANDMARKS COMMISSION

PRESENTED: August 12, 2013

TITLE: Landmarks Ordinance Revisions

REFERRED:

REREFERRED:

REPORTED BACK:

AUTHOR: Amy Scanlon, Secretary

ADOPTED:

POF:

DATED: August 12, 2013

ID NUMBER:

Members present were: Stuart Levitan, Chair; David McLean, Christina Slattery, Erica Fox Gehrig and Michael Rosenblum.

SUMMARY:

At its meeting of August 12, 2013, the Landmarks Commission **DISCUSSED** the Landmarks Ordinance revisions. Visually related area maps using the new revised ordinance definition based on dates were shown for discussion purposes. The first one is in Marquette Bungalows with the dates showing them fitting in the period of significance. The Historic District Preservation Plan talks about this district being constructed from 1924-1930; a construction date for one building is noted in the Assessor's information from 1931. How do we deal with that discrepancy? Gehrig noted that sometimes the City Assessor versus the Historical Society note discrepancies in paperwork and records. There are some parts of the City that have fairly accurate records; there are other parts of the City that people have done a best guess because records have been lost or never existed. The Landmarks Commission is specific in the ordinance about looking at properties if they are outside the period of significance based on the Assessor's records, so how does the Commission better narrow in on this? Levitan replied that you go to regulation with the information you have. There is no other standard and that's the best information. If every once in awhile there is an individual property in which the documentation is sketchy, we'll have to address that at that time. Staff noted that this is a legal document and wishy-washy won't apply in a legal document. Slattery noted there are a lot of buildings with no data available, which narrows the pool. The preservation files within the Planning Division often have conflicting information and dates from what the Assessor's records show. Levitan commented that the question of the property that makes this revision necessary is going to be so clearly outside the dates of significance that it's not going to be an issue. If something was built after 1930, that's the issue. We don't need to know if it was built in 1931 or 1935, we just need to know if it was after 1930 or not. Ultimately you make an informed calculation and determination.

Alder Zellers commented that she has gotten dates and other information from the State Historical Society.

Procedurally there needs to be a process for buildings where the dates are unknown.

It's not just about the language in the ordinance, it's about the information we can actually put accurately in a map.

The Commission will continue this discussion on September 16 with the hope of finishing revisions and voting on the ordinance changes on September 30, 2013.