

CITY OF AURORA
OHIO
Landmark Commission
Meeting Minutes
January 21, 2016

The Landmark Commission met in a scheduled meeting Thursday, January 21, 2016 in the Council Chambers at City Hall. The meeting was called to order at 6:59 p.m. by Jeff Clark.

OATH OF OFFICE:

Prior to the start of the meeting, Marie Lawrie, Secretary of the Landmark Commission administered the Oath of Office to Jason Coleman. The members welcomed him.

ROLL CALL: Present: Lauren Broderick
Jason Coleman
Jeff Clark
Tim Holder
John Kudley
Also Present: Ronald Lowe – Architectural Advisor
Richard Fetzer, Historical Society Advisor
Marie Lawrie, Secretary

AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA:

None

ORGANIZATIONAL:

Mr. Kudley nominated Jeff Clark for Chairman. There were no further nominations.

MOTION: To close the nominations for Chairman

Mr. Holder moved, Ms. Broderick seconded, and the motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

MOTION: To elect Jeff Clark, 2016 Chairman of the Landmark Commission

Mr. Holder moved, Ms. Broderick seconded, and the motion carried on a 4-0-1 on a roll call vote.

Yeas: Mr. Holder, Ms. Broderick, Mr. Coleman, Mr. Kudley
Nays: None

Abstentions: Mr. Clark
Ms. Broderick nominated John Kudley for Chairman. There were no further nominations.

MOTION: To close the nominations for Vice Chairman

Mr. Holder moved, Ms. Broderick seconded, and the motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

MOTION: To elect John Kudley, Vice Chairman of the Landmark Commission

Ms. Broderick moved, Mr. Clark seconded, and the motion carried on a 5-0 on a roll call vote.
Yeas: Ms. Broderick, Mr. Clark, Mr. Coleman, Mr. Holder, Mr. Kudley
Nays: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

MOTION: To approve the minutes of the November 19, 2015 meeting

Mr. Clark moved, Ms. Broderick seconded, and the motion carried on a 3-0-2 roll call vote.
Yeas: Mr. Clark, Ms. Broderick, Mr. Holder
Nays: None
Abstentions: Mr. Coleman, Mr. Kudley

OLD BUSINESS:

Homeowners Guide to Landmark Commission

Not discussed.

Geauga Lake Historic Marker

The State deadline for this project has changed. They accept applications only on July 1st. Mr. Kudley will follow through for this marker as well as one for the Deed House.

Historic Home Tour

Plans are to follow up with the Mayor in connection with this idea. The Home Tour might be a good first step in expanding the tree lighting ceremony activities. The Mayor was open to the home tour idea in the future. Ms. Broderick wondered if there was a way to adopt a project and earmark any proceeds in connection with the Historic Home Tour for a preservation project or a beautification project or even a maintenance project. This would be an annual project to do some good for some of the properties which need repairs.

NEW BUSINESS:

Goals that have been met:

- ✚ Pole Banners
- ✚ Historic District Signs
- ✚ Deed House
- ✚ Expanded Holiday Lighting
- ✚ Sign Code Input
- ✚ Met with Cleveland Preservation Society for Presentation

Goals for the upcoming year:

- ✚ Historic Markers
- ✚ Letter explaining that the Landmark Commission is available to help homeowners or a periodic press release in the local papers with Landmark Commission information.
- ✚ Put Historic Inventory Sheets online with GIS Map
- ✚ Architectural Board of Review – Residential Guideline input where Historical Home Projects are applicable.
- ✚ Meet with Mayor to discuss Cleveland Preservation Society Information.
- ✚ Partnering with the City for the Tree Lighting Ceremony.

MISCELLANEOUS:

Speed Limit

Mr. Clark addressed the issue of lowering the speed limit through the Historic District. He stated that the Master Plan for the historic district addresses reducing the speed limit from 35 mph to 25 mph. If a resident requests that, it would be supported by the Master Plan. Reducing the speed limit might be wise, considering the 1815 Tavern with outdoor seating and plans to make the district more walkable. Landmark Commission could raise the issue before City Council and the Planning, Zoning, and Building Department. Mr. Clark will discuss this with the Mayor.

Jake Break Ordinance

Mr. Clark addressed the issue of tractor trailers using a loud breaking system. (A *compression release engine brake, frequently called a Jake brake or Jacobs brake, is an engine braking mechanism installed on some diesel engines. When activated, it opens exhaust valves in the cylinders after the compression cycle, releasing the compressed air trapped in the cylinders, and slowing the vehicle.*) He reported that all the surrounding communities have ordinances prohibiting the use of this breaking system. A number of years ago, he brought this before City Council and it was rejected by a member who felt it was somehow not safe to disallow this action. With the opening of the 1815 Tavern with

outdoor seating, it might be time to revisit this request.

Certificate of Appropriateness for City Projects

Mr. Clark raised discussion of whether or not the City needs a Certificate of Appropriateness for projects within the Historic District. A variety of projects including a fence have been done within the District. It would set a good example to residents if the requirements were the same across the board. In a conversation with the State, Mr. Clark found that it is customary that a City gets approval first. In the past projects were brought to Landmark Commission including the Clock Tower, and Cityscape. Mr. Clark plans to discuss this with the Mayor.

Historic Homes in Disrepair

A challenge is the amount of Historic Homes in disrepair and for sale. The ultimate goal of the Landmark Commission is to help keep the values of the Historic District homes.

Aurora Inn Parking

Mr. Kudley mentioned briefly that parking for the Aurora Inn, 30 Shawnee Trail may come up in the coming year. The past history of how the road came to be on the property of the Aurora Inn was discussed. Mr. Coleman stated that it can be dangerous for pedestrians crossing the street. There was discussion about whether the need is there for additional parking. The general consensus was that there is need. The green space located on that corner was mentioned.

The Triangle Property at the Deed House Location

Mr. Kudley mentioned that the Mayor has plans for the triangular property at the site of the Deed House. Mr. Kudley recommended Landmark Commission write a letter asking the Mayor to include the Board on this project. Mr. Kraus is considering landscaping for this parcel. Mr. Clark mentioned that his idea for the naming of that area is Baldwin Point. He stated and Mr. Fetzer agreed that the Baldwin family was very influential to the history of Aurora, yet has nothing named for them. Harvey Baldwin started the cheese business. His family owned the triangle land. Mr. Kudley stated that it might be called Pioneer Park to include all the founding families. Sandstone for the site was discussed. Seema Anwar has some sandstone pieces that could possibly be used for the project. Mr. Fetzer also stated that he has sandstone from the foundation of his barn that could be a possibility for the project. It could be used as a retaining wall. Mr. Kudley will put Mr. Kraus in contact with Mr. Fetzer.

Missing Sandstone from the 1815 Tavern Property

Mr. Clark inquired about what may have happened to the historic sandstone sidewalk from the Chet Edwards property along the front of the 1815 Tavern property. In the past, sidewalk was brought in front of the Landmark Commission twice before, once in the district, and once for route 82. The sidewalk is part of the historic district. The sidewalk

is not on the property and utility flags are in the area.

Brochures for the Walking Tours

Mr. Kudley reminded the members that in the Landmark Commission budget, money was requested for brochures for a walking tour of both the Train Station and Cemetery.

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting.

Mr. Holder moved to adjourn at 8:01 p.m. Mr. Kudley seconded, and the motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

Jeff Clark - Chairman

Marie Lawrie - Clerk