

# City of Racine

*City Hall  
730 Washington Ave.  
Racine, WI 53403*



## Meeting Minutes

**Monday, April 2, 2007**

**4:30 PM**

**Room 301**

## **Landmarks Preservation Commission**

*Chairman Mary Whitman  
Alderman Robert Anderson  
Geoff Greiveldinger  
Robert Hartmann  
Don Rintz  
Sally Sorenson  
Paul Zens*

**Chairman Whitman called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.**

**PRESENT:** 6 - Mary Whitman, Robert Anderson, Geoff Greiveldinger, Robert Hartmann,  
Don Rintz and Paul Zens

**EXCUSED:** 1 - Sally Sorenson

*OTHERS PRESENT: Brian F. O'Connell, Director of City Development  
Matthew Sadowski, Principal Planner*

**Approval of Minutes for the March 8, 2007 Meeting**

**A motion was made by Geoff Greiveldinger, seconded by Paul Zens, that the minutes be approved, as distributed. The motion PASSED.**

**Correspondence**

*Sixth Street Reconstruction Project: Chairman Whitman stated that in response to an invitation from the engineering firm of HNTB, she has affirmed the Commissions desire to be listed as a consulting party for the Sixth Street reconstruction project.*

*WAHPC spring meeting: The notice was circulated for Commissioners' review.*

**Buildings Being Razed**

*Commissioner Rintz stated that raze permits were reviewed for a small house on Memorial Drive, a church in the 2000 (odd) block of Mead Street, a gas station on the northwest corner of Durand Avenue and South Memorial Drive, and quite a few garages. With the exception of the church, of the structure to be razed appeared not to be of no historical significance.*

**Ord.07-07**

Ordinance No. 7-07

To amend Secs. 58-63(a), 58-64(a) and create Sec. 58-66 of the Municipal Code of the City of Racine, Wisconsin relating to Historic Preservation.

The Common Council of the City of Racine do ordain as follows:

Part 1:

Sec. 58-63(a) of the Municipal Code of the City of Racine is hereby amended by adding the following at the end of the paragraph: "unless the landmark or landmark site is re-designated in accordance with section 58-66."

Part 2:

Sec. 58-64(a) of the Municipal Code of the City of Racine is hereby amended by adding the following at the end of the paragraph: "unless the landmark or landmark site is re-designated in accordance with section 58-66."

Part 3:

Sec. 58-66 of the Municipal Code of the City of Racine is hereby created to read

as follows:

"Sec. 58-66. Procedure for re-designation of landmarks designated prior to January 1, 2006.

(a) The designation of properties as landmarks or landmark sites prior to January 1, 2006, shall substitute for the procedure set forth in subsections 58-62 (a) - (d).

(b) Prior to recommending the re-designation of a landmark or landmark site, the commission shall give written notice of the proposed re-designation to the owner of the property. The notice shall describe the time, date and place of the meeting at which the commission is to consider the re-designation and identify the property under consideration for re-designation. Notice shall be sent by certified mail, return receipt requested, not less than ten days prior to the meeting. Included with the notice shall be a pre-addressed, postage paid reply on which the owner may indicate consent to or opposition to the proposed re-designation. The owner's consent or opposition or absence of response shall be noted in the minutes of the commission meeting and any subsequent report to the plan commission and common council.

(c) Within 30 days following the meeting noticed in accordance with subsection (b), the commission may recommend to the plan commission and the common council the re-designation of the landmark or landmark site. The document of re-designation shall set forth the criteria required in section 58-61 which apply to the property so affected. After such a recommendation of re-designation has been made, the commission shall provide written notice of its recommendation to the property owner by first-class mail.

(d) The commission shall comply with subsections 58-62(e) and (f) to complete the re-designation procedure."

Fiscal Note: N/A

*Director O'Connell explained that Ordinance No. 7-07 will define the process for the re-designation of Racine Landmarks.*

**A motion was made by Geoff Greiveldinger, seconded by Paul Zens, that this ordinance be Recommended For Adoption. The motion PASSED.**

#### **Administrative Business:**

a. *ELECTION OF OFFICERS: CHAIRPERSON AND SECRETARY.*

*Commission member requested deferral on this matter until such time as they can get information as to when their terms expire.*

b. *DEBRIEFING ON WHS PRESERVATION COMMISSION WORKSHOP.*

*Chairman Whitman briefly described the on-line training program being developed by the WHS for Landmarks Commission members. She also discussed the valuable opportunity afforded by the workshop for information sharing between Landmarks Commission members of other communities. Commissioner Rintz expressed similar views and submitted a copy of his workshop evaluation form to be added to the*

*Commission's records.*

*Planner Sadowski stated that he found the workshop to be timely with a discussion by other communities of their experiences with a re-designation process. To this point, Director O'Connell stated that staff would develop a draft promotional letter for review by Commission members. The letter would go to all existing Racine Landmarks owners.*

*Chairman Whitman stated that from the workshop it was reinforced with her the need for an endangered properties list and to develop goals for the next 12 months. Commission members concurred.*

*In concert with the comments of Chairman Whitman, Planner Sadowski and Director O'Connell, Commissioner Hartmann suggested that for the next meeting, Commissioners develop their individual "top ten" lists of those properties they feel should be designated or re-designated under the new Landmarks Preservation Ordinance. Commission members concurred.*

*c. THE HISTORY CHANNEL: SAVE OUR HISTORY GRANT PROGRAM*

*Commissioner Geiveldinger briefly reviewed this grant opportunity and its emphasis on collaboration with schools.*

*d. OTHER ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS IN RESPONSE TO COMMISSIONER'S INQUIRIES*

*Director O'Connell reviewed the boundaries of the nomination for the southside historic district, stating that it is proposed to extend from 11th to 12th Street and encompass properties on both sides of Lake Avenue, and possibly those fronting on the east side of Main Street.*

*Director O'Connell informed Commissioners' that a survey of the west platform of the State Street train station indicates that 2/3rds of the west platform is in the railroad right-of-way. He stated that the City may attempt to obtain an easement from the railroad for the west platform.*

## **Adjournment**

*A motion was made by Commission Rintz and seconded by Commissioner Zens to adjourn the meeting. There being no objections the meeting was adjourned at 5:55 p.m.*

*Respectfully Submitted,*

*Matthew G. Sadowski  
Principal Planner.*