

## MEETING RECORD

**NAME OF GROUP:** HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

**DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF MEETING:** Thursday, July 31, 2018, 12:00 noon, Conference Room 214, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, County-City Building, 555 S. 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Lincoln, Nebraska

**MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:** Liz Bavitz, Jim Johnson, Greg Munn and Jim McKee; (Melissa Dirr Gengler, Jim Hewitt and Greg McCown absent).

**OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:** Ed Zimmer and Teresa McKinstry of the Planning Department; and Ann Post.

**STATED PURPOSE OF MEETING:** Special Historic Preservation Commission Meeting

Chair Greg Munn called the meeting to order and acknowledged the posting of the Open Meetings Act in the room.

Munn requested a motion approving the minutes for the meeting of June 21, 2018. Motion for approval made by Johnson, seconded by Bavitz and carried 4-0: Bavitz, Johnson, Munn and McKee voting 'yes'; Dirr Gengler, Hewitt and McCown absent.

The opportunity was given for persons with limited time or with an item not appearing on the agenda to address the Commission. No one appeared.

### **APPLICATION FOR LANDMARK DESIGNATION OF SCOTTISH RITE TEMPLE, 332 CENTENNIAL MALL SOUTH**

**PUBLIC HEARING:** **July 31, 2018**

Members present: Bavitz, Johnson, Munn and McKee; Dirr Gengler, Hewitt and McCown absent.

Ann Post presented an overview of the project. The Scottish Rite Temple has partnered with The Venue to renovate and use their basement space. Their renovation will simply be paint, new ceiling tiles and cosmetic touches. Part of this is to change the zoning to B-4 which will allow The Venue to apply for a liquor license. The Venue will run this as an event venue. The Masons will continue to use this for their activities. The Fire Marshall capacity is 470 people, but 300 is probably a better number. There is parking available at a surface parking lot and they are working with the State of Nebraska on a potential agreement to use their nearby parking garage.

Ed Zimmer added that this has been operating with a special event license. They do not intend to operate this as a bar. Post noted that is correct. This will be an event space. This is currently zoned O-1, an office zoning designation. The Planning Dept. position is that this is a good location for B-4 zoning. The Planning Dept. will sponsor an application immediately east of this to change two parcels with O-1 zoning to B-4.

Scottish Rite Temple is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. It is also protected as a key property in the Capitol Environs district. He appreciates the Commissioners attending the special meeting today. This application is due to appear before Planning Commission tomorrow. This will allow the applicant to keep on a schedule. This has a great interior. The landmark doesn't cover the interior. What strikes him is that the interior, especially the entrance sequence, is much like Lincoln High. There is a marble staircase going up and a cross hall.

Bavitz thinks this is a great project and a great asset to downtown. The other Commissioners agreed.

**ACTION:**

Bavitz moved to recommend approval of the landmark designation of Scottish Rite Temple, seconded by McKee and carried 4-0: Bavitz, Johnson, Munn and McKee voting 'yes'; Dirr Gengler, Hewitt and McCown absent.

McKee moved approval of the change of zone to B-4 zoning, seconded by Johnson and carried 4-0: Bavitz, Johnson, Munn and McKee voting 'yes'; Dirr Gengler, Hewitt and McCown absent.

**OTHER:**

Zimmer stated that the Commission has previously approved a basement-level patio space for the Grand Manse. The building permit application came in with some changes from the approved design.. They had lined up the basement outdoor space with the back wall of the building and were running it up to the staircase along the sidewalk. It got shorter to the north. They were going to cut the railing off about eight or ten feet short of the porch. They have also shifted it a little to the south. It makes the post on the far corner behind the building. This would bring that corner beyond the corner of the building. Zimmer is not totally comfortable with the south part. McKee believes if Zimmer feels uncomfortable, he would like to see it. The other Commissioners agreed.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:20 p.m.