

MINUTES OF THE LANDMARKS BOARD

DATE: January 15, 2025

TIME: 5:30pm

The meeting and public hearing of the Landmarks Board was held on the above date and time in person in the Busch Building, 2 West Conference Room.

ROLL CALL:

Landmarks Board members: John Hawkins-Chair, Adam Letterman-Vice Chair, Genevieve Henry, Seva Nix, John Sellars, Nicole Falconer, Bryan Lenox, and Wanda Quintana. Absent: Erik Kiser. Staff members: Michael Sparlin and Andrew Menke, Senior Planners.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: December 18, 2024, minutes were approved.

NEW BUSINESS:

Certificate of Appropriateness: **830 North Benton Avenue** – John Oke-Thomas, 1972 E. Chestnut the architect and representing Drury University (also present Gene Douglas and Alex Riddle). The church was originally designed and built for an African American Methodist Church and the development/idea dates from 1867 to have a 2nd African American church. The church was not built until 1922 due to lack of funds and was active to 2014 when it closed. It was placed on the National Register in 2002 and the significance is Pastor Oliver Brown (Brown v. Board of Education), noting that the building has a relationship between the African American community. The commitment from Drury is that they will restore the building to the same shape when it was built and are systematically disassembling it and putting it back as well as adding ADA features (east side), so it does not encroach onto the edifice of the building. The goal will be to offer tours and have some classrooms in the basement area, but the upper level they will be restoring the existing pews (same placement as before).

Discussed various features/options, i.e., doors (not original), windows (Marvin replacements), front steps (replacing with concrete), roofing, flooring, etc.

Board members note that this type of project is why the Landmarks Board exist and stating that it is worthy of saving.

Board Action:

Bryan Lenox motioned to **approve** Certificate of Appropriateness (830 North Benton Avenue). John Sellars seconded the motion. The motioned carried as follows: Ayes: John Hawkins-Chair, Adam Letterman-Vice-Chair, Seva Nix, Genevieve Henry, John Sellars, Wanda Quintana, Nicole Falconer, and Bryan Lenox. Nays: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Erik Kiser.

COMMUNICATIONS:

Questions on the SHPO grant and the criteria was not met and has been withdrawn, however Council would like to look at this further.

Landmarks Board Training to be scheduled on February 26, 2025 (2nd Landmarks Board meeting) and any topic that the members may have an interest in.

Any other matters that fall under the jurisdiction of the Board:

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by the Chair.



Michael Sparlin, Senior Planner