JOPLIN | HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

MINUTES

SPECIAL MEETING

Wednesday September 25, 2024

The Historic Preservation Commission of the City of Joplin met on Wednesday, September 25, 2024, at 5:00 p.m. in the 5th floor study at Joplin City Hall at 602 South Main Street, Joplin, Missouri.

Members Present: Ms. Halbach, Dr. Mountz, Ms. DeTar, Mr. Millard, Dr. Fischer and Mr. Huff.

Members Not Present: Ms. Franoski, Mr. Brueckner and Ms. Haun

City Staff Present: Thomas Walters and Zoie Hamilton

Item 1 & 2: Meeting Called to Order and Roll Call

Ms. Halbach called the meeting to order, and Zoie Hamilton called the roll.

DR. MOUNTZ MOVED, SECONDED BY MR. HUFF TO EXCUSE MS. FRANOSKI AND MS. HAUN. MS. HALBACH, MR. HUFF, MS. DETAR, DR. MOUNTZ, DR. FISCHER, AND MR. MILLARD VOTING "AYE". MOTION CARRIED. (6 IN FAVOR, 2 ABSENT)

Item 3 & 4: Approval of Minutes and Budget

Not addressed due to being a special meeting.

Item 5: Public Hearings- Certificate of Appropriateness: Spiva Park

Thomas Walters presented the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation in relation to Spiva Park. Mr. Walters explained the property must be used as it was historically or be given a new use that requires minimal change to its distinctive materials, features spaces and spatial relationships. Mr. Walter found that the use of the property is unchanged and will still be used as a park.

Mr. Walters explained that the historic character of the property must be retained and preserved. Mr. Walters noted that the most significant feature to the park is the water feature. Mr. Walters explained that unlike the architectural features of a building, the water and fountain features have drastically different characteristics with life expectancy and ongoing maintenance. Mr. Walters continued explaining how the fountain and water features should be preserved, however, restoration would fail to meet the mandate of protecting the feature, as ongoing maintenance would endanger the inclusion of the fountain and waterfall in the park, as evidenced by the fact that they regularly need to be turned off due to damage and part replacement. Mr. Walters also explained how the cost of parts and maintenance are more than expected due to the regular issues the fountain is having, which is noted by the park department. With the proposed changes, Mr. Walter explained that the proposed dry fountain, that will serve the same water feature purpose when needed, drastically change maintenance and give the park more useable space when turned off, maintaining and enhancing the traditional use. Mr. Walters also explained with the proposed dry fountain feature, maintenance will be drastically reduced, and demand on the pump assembly will be significantly less resulting in increased service life.

Ms. Kate DeTar presented the proposed changes to Spiva Park on behalf of Gaye Currence. In the proposed changes, Ms. DeTar explained that they propose to use grass geocell infill, so the park can have vendors for events, if necessary, without destruction to the property. Ms. DeTar noted that the cherubs that are currently in the fountain at Spiva Park, will still be present with the proposed dry water feature, but will be better able to be maintained due to the lower amount of water exposure, thus resulting in lower maintenance cost. Mr. DeTar explained with the proposed landscaping changes, it will be easier for the parks department to maintain due to the simplified nature of the landscaping. Ms. DeTar went on to explain that with the changes proposed to the lighting and tree maintenance will allow there to be better visibility in the park and enhance the safety of the park. Ms. DeTar showed the commission plans for the park to have a removable fence so events can take place in the park without damage to the park. Ms. DeTar also explained that they proposed removing the bridge in the park, due to the unfunded repairs it has needed in the past.

Ms. Halbach opened the floor up for people in favor of the Certificate of Appropriateness of Spiva Park to speak.

Ms. Gaye Currence asked to speak. Ms. Currence explained that her and her brother Scott had been concerned about the state of Spiva Park, and that is why they approach Ms. DeTar to come up with a plan to redesign certain aspects of the park. Ms. Currence stated that she feels the plans that were presented were a great solution to problems she had witnessed regarding the park.

Ms. DeTar asked to speak in favor of the redesign plans of Spiva Park. Ms. DeTar wanted to explain that the design her and Ms. Currence had created were to relocate certain aspects of the park, not get rid of them entirely. Ms. DeTar stated her, and Ms. Currence wanted to focus the redesign aspects on making the park a safe, accessible and revitalized space.

Ms. Halbach asked if anyone else would like to speak in favor of the Certificate of Appropriateness of Spiva Park.

Ms. Halbach asked if anyone would like to speak against the Certificate of Appropriateness for Spiva Park.

Ms. Halbach opened the discussion to the commission regarding the Certificate of Appropriateness of Spiva Park.

Ms. Halbach asked about who would be responsible for the maintenance for the changes proposed.

Mr. Walters explained that maintenance would be similar how it is now in the park with the city parks department, taking care of it.

Ms. Halbach also asked about the proposed changes to the stage area of Spiva Park; she had questions regarding who would be responsible for allowing stage reservations.

Mr. Walters stated that it would be up to the city park department on if they would allow reservations and things of that nature regarding the proposed stage changes.

DR. FISCHER MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS OF SPIVA PARK WITH THE MODIFICATION THAT CITY STAFF BE ALLOWED TO MAKE MINOR CHANGES WIHTOUT HAVING TO REVIST THE COMMISSION. MR. HUFF SECONDED THIS MOTION. MS. HALBACH, MR. HUFF, DR. MOUNTZ, DR. FISCHER, AND MR. MILLARD VOTING "AYE". MS. DETAR ABSTAINED FROM VOTING. MOTION CARRIED. (5 IN FAVOR, 1 ABSTAINING, 2 ABSENT)

Items 6, 7, 8 & 9: Discussion Items, Old Business, New Business and Announcements:

No items to discuss.

Item 10: Adjournment

DR. MOUNTZ MOVED, SECONDED BY MR. HUFF TO ADJOURN THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION. MS. HALBACH, DR. MOUNTZ, DR. FISCHER, MR. HUFF, MS. DETAR, AND MR. MILLARD VOTING "AYE". (6 IN FAVOR, 2 ABSENT)

Approved _____
Jill Halbach, Chairperson

Approved _____
Recording Secretary