

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Landmarks Preservation Commission  
Held in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building  
On Wednesday, September 13, 2023**

The Chairman, Matt Smith, called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

**Roll Call**

Members:

Present –Vice Chairman Ralph White; Cynthia Murnyack-Czarnecki; Clint Gault; Chairman Matt Smith

**Correspondence/Reports**

Mr. White stated that he had talked with Milano Monuments and he is going to go Friday to pick up the three slabs of sandstone left over from the Sweet monument and the top that belongs to it. The top was supposed to be attached last fall and Mr. White is afraid that it is going to get lost so he decided he would go to Milano Monuments and get the slabs and the top. He called them and they are expecting him.

Ms. Murnyack-Czarnecki said that in their collaboration with the Historical Society and Avon High School on the gravestone cleaning project at Center Cemetery, she has been in communication with the Principal of the High School, Kristina Buller, regarding student volunteers. Ms. Buller felt that the Leo Club, the student division of the Lions Club, would be the perfect group to work with. She connected Ms. Murnyack-Czarnecki with their faculty advisor, and Ms. Murnyack-Czarnecki will be in communication with her once we determine the dates that we would like the students to help.

Mr. White stated that this coming weekend is not good because of Superhero Day, but the following weekend we could start with four or five students. Ms. Murnyack-Czarnecki said that they have considered having a shift in the morning of four students where they would work in teams of two and a shift in the afternoon where they would work in teams of two. Mr. White agreed. He said that he was at the Cemetery today and did a few gravestones and it is time-consuming. A team of two in the morning and the afternoon would be best and with our limited supplies we will probably have to schedule some more dates. But if we get at least the first round done that would be good and we will re-evaluate it after that to see what is needed.

Ms. Murnyack-Czarnecki said alright, and we will make sure we have a cell phone contact with the faculty advisor in case the weather is inclement and we decide that it is not a good day to do it. Mr. White said, yes, and then we decided Saturday we would meet the adult volunteers and go over things and flag some stones that we would like the students to clean and then take a crash course on the cleaning process so that all the adults know the procedure and then we can get the volunteers to work with the students. We will go over it again with the students on that morning and again in the afternoon. He stated that the City has rubber gloves for everybody. The cleaning solution that they are going to be using is just soap so it is really not toxic or hazardous but we have the rubber gloves. If they want to wear safety glasses or goggles, they will have to bring those, and they should be dressed to possibly get dirty. They might be kneeling on the ground or be splashed with dirty soap, etc.

**Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Landmarks Preservation Commission Held Wednesday, August 9, 2023**

A motion was made by Mr. Gault and seconded by Mr. White to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Landmarks Preservation Commission held Wednesday, August 9, 2023, and approve said minutes as published. The vote was all ayes and the Chairman declared the motion passed.

#### **Update on Center Cemetery Restorations – Ralph White**

Mr. White stated that K & J Restoration is done with Round 1 and 2 at the Cemetery and there might possibly be a third one. We have to talk to the Mayor's office and schedule for K & J to come out and give another quote, possibly in October. Mr. White said K & J did a great job with restoration of the gravestones and he looks forward to getting some more work done.

#### **Landmark Nominations – Ralph White**

Mr. White advised that he had no nominations at this time.

#### **Landmark Letters of Recognition – Ralph White**

Mr. White stated that he has a couple letters in mind but has been so busy with other things that he does not have anything ready for tonight.

#### **Member Comments**

Mr. Smith began his comments by saying that this was really hard for him. Yesterday afternoon he received a call from Law Director John Gasior who advised him that in the City Charter, it states that a member of the Landmarks Preservation Commission cannot be on any other Commission, and obviously Mr. Smith is on the Tree Commission. Mr. Gasior told him that he had to resign from one Commission and pick the other to stay on and he was choosing to go with the Tree Commission. So at the adjournment of this meeting, he will be officially resigned from the Landmarks Preservation Commission.

Everyone was so very sorry to hear this and asked if there was any way around it or if an amendment to the Charter could be made. Mr. Smith said that the Mayor told him that the next time the Charter Review Commission meets would probably be in four years. Mr. White stated, so they would have to find another member. Mr. Smith said, yes, it would have to be the Mayoral appointee. Mr. Gault asked what Mayor Jensen said about this and Mr. Smith answered that he just said that the Charter was the Charter. And that was also what John Gasior said. He said that is the way that it is. Mr. Smith said that he was kind of numb and all he could say was that he thanks all of them for all they have done.

Mr. Gault stated that Mr. Smith has been an incredible leader of the group and it will not feel right without him as part of it. Is there anything where he could continue in an unofficial capacity? Mr. Smith said that the Law Director said that he had to pick a Commission to resign. Mr. White asked, so are we looking for a new Chairperson? Mr. Smith responded that you would be looking for the Mayoral appointee and obviously you can suggest somebody to the Mayor, and then all of you would vote on the Chair. Mr. White noted, so then we would have to wait until a replacement is made and Mr. Smith said that he assumed so.

Mr. Gault said again, for the record, that Mr. Smith had been an incredible leader of the Landmarks Preservation Commission. He is a vital part of this group and they appreciate everything he has done.

**Date of Next Meeting**

Mr. Smith stated that the next Regular Meeting of the Landmarks Preservation Commission would be held on Wednesday, October 11, 2023, in the Council Chambers of Avon City Hall at 7:00 P.M

**Adjourn**

A motion was made by Mr. White and seconded by Ms. Murnyack-Czarnecki to adjourn the meeting and the vote was all ayes. The Chairman declared the motion passed and the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by Gail Hayden, Assistant Clerk of Council