

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Landmarks Preservation Commission
Held in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building
On Wednesday, October 11, 2023**

The Vice Chair, Ralph White, called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

Roll Call

Members:

Present –Cynthia Murnyack-Czarnecki; Clint Gault; David Morahan, Vice-Chair Ralph White

Appointment of a Chair to the Landmarks Preservation Commission

Mr. White nominated Cynthia Murnyack-Czarnecki and since there were no other nominations, the Vice-Chair declared the nominee, Cynthia Murnyack-Czarnecki, to be the Chair of the Landmarks Preservation Commission. Mr. White then stated that Ms. Murnyack-Czarnecki would conduct the remainder of the meeting.

Ms. Murnyack-Czarnecki thanked Mr. White for the nomination and said that she accepted the position of Chair of the Landmarks Preservation Commission.

Correspondence/Reports

Mr. Gault stated that the French Creek Foundation refreshed the planters in the French Creek District by adding pumpkins to them.

Ms. Murnyack-Czarnecki said that she wanted to take the opportunity to welcome Mr. Morahan to the Landmarks Preservation Commission and that they appreciated his service on the Commission.

Additions and Deletions to the Agenda

A motion was made by Mr. White and seconded by Mr. Gault to accept agenda as published.

Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Landmarks Preservation Commission Held Wednesday, September 13, 2023

A motion was made by Mr. White and seconded by Mr. Gault to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Landmarks Preservation Commission held Wednesday, September 13, 2023, and approve said minutes as published. The vote was all ayes and the Chair declared the motion passed.

Update on Center Cemetery Restorations – Ralph White

Mr. White stated that K & J Restoration has finished their third Phase of gravestone repairs and restorations at the Cemetery. This time we focused on the military gravestones and markers that needed to be either raised, leveled, or just basically repaired. He thought that there were twelve in this section and they all turned out really nice. Mr. White said that he was at the Cemetery today with Kerry Barvincak of the Avon VFW Post 7035 and he went over the GAR markers (which is “Grand Army of the Republic”) for the Civil War veterans, and there are several. We are going to replace all the old GAR stars. Also, there is one War of 1812 soldier and Mr. Barvincak has located a star for that for the War of 1812, so he

thinks we are going to get that too. We are going to do another phase of restorations next year but the majority of all the repairs that were long overdue have been addressed this season and it really looks nice up there compared to how it did.

Landmark Nominations – Ralph White

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

Landmark Letters of Recognition – Ralph White

Mr. White stated that he did not have any letters at this time but will probably have some over this winter.

Member Comments

Ms. Murnyack-Czarnecki said that paperclipped to the agenda is a copy of a letter that we received from a resident, Linda Heiden. She sent to us information that she picked up about the Warrensville West Cemetery in Shaker Heights. Ms. Murnyack-Czarnecki asked everyone to peruse this information at their convenience and at the next meeting we will have some additional information to share from the internet about this Warrensville West Cemetery.

Mr. Gault noted that Mary Berges was in the audience and he thanked her for her help in putting the pumpkins in the planters on Detroit Road. He added that he also wanted to thank the entire Tree Commission for organizing the Arbor Day celebration. It was well done and well put together and it was great to be there to see it.

Mr. White said that, going back to the Cemetery and the cleaning of the markers, we should mention the high school students' help with that. Ms. Murnyack-Czarnecki thanked Mr. White and said, yes, we want to extend our appreciation to the Leo Club from Avon High School. Eight members of the Club came to the Cemetery and worked diligently cleaning the gravestones. They were prompt, attentive, and they worked hard. They are also planning on coming again on October 28th from 9:00 A.M. until 1:00 P.M. if the weather is conducive to cleaning stones. We also want to extend our appreciation to the faculty advisor of the Leo Club, Cameron Walters. She has been instrumental in encouraging the students to volunteer in this worthy assignment.

Mr. White stated that he would like to do the additional round of cleaning before October 28th, possibly during the week and if not, the weekend, weather permitting. It is getting colder and it seems like rainy season and when it is wet and real windy, the cleaning is not going to work. So hopefully we will get some more days where we can go to the Cemetery and get a few more stones done.

Audience Comments

Mary Berges stated that she wanted to commend the Landmarks Preservation Commission for the work on the Cemetery. Some of them know that this has been discussed for years and it is just wonderful to see it actually happening and to be able to drive by the Cemetery and see the difference in the quality and the way the stones look. The other part that is great about it is the way that you have partnered with the Leo Club and residents who have volunteered to help clean the stones. Ms. Berges said she always thinks it is great when you have a project that involves numerous members of the community. We can feel proud that it is a community project. So applause, commendations, a great job.

Ms. Berges said that, on a related but separate note, a few months ago she was at Lakeshore Cemetery in Avon Lake and right when you enter the Cemetery, they have a little plaque there and they have a QR code where you can see the people that are buried there. She said that she wondered if sometime in the future, either the LPC or somebody could think about doing something like that for our Cemetery. Mr. White said that was a good idea and is something they can think about down the road.

Rick Varga stated that Mr. White and the LPC are doing a great job on the Cemetery. He added that he wanted to give them an update on the trees at the Cemetery and let them know that he is still working on that. He has called the tree company a number of times to go over there and look at the trees so they have discussed it.

Matt Smith said that he would just like to welcome Dave Morahan to the Landmarks Preservation Commission; he is in good company here.

Mr. White stated that there is one thing that he forgot to mention about the Cemetery. They are working on moving the big rock with all the City of Avon veterans' names on it. The veterans are not all buried there; they are also buried in the different cemeteries in the City such as St. Mary's, Holy Trinity, etc., but they want to move that big rock to the Veterans Memorial behind the Post Office. Kerry Barvincak is working on the process of doing that.

Ms. Murnyack-Czarnecki noted that the Cemetery project has been a very collaborative project among the Landmarks Preservation Commission, the Avon Historical Society, the Veterans Post, the City, and the Tree Commission. All of these groups have come together to move this project further.

Adjourn

A motion was made by Mr. White and seconded by Mr. Gault to adjourn the meeting and the vote was all ayes. The Chair declared the motion passed and the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by Gail Hayden, Assistant Clerk of Council

Note: The next Regular Meeting of the Landmarks Preservation Commission will be held on Wednesday, November 8, 2023, in the Council Chambers of Avon City Hall at 7:00 P.M.