



Madison Historic Preservation Plan Overview

May 1, 2017

In early summer 2017, the City of Madison will begin developing its first ever Historic Preservation Plan. Although the City has had a Historic Preservation Ordinance and Landmarks Commission since 1970, there has never been a comprehensive approach focused on ensuring that the community's collective stories are told and that the historic resources representing those histories are preserved.

The City is in the process of retaining/contracting with a team of consultants lead by Legacy Architecture of Sheboygan to begin this effort, which is really three projects in one. As described below, the Plan will update the ordinances for the existing local historic districts, prioritize completion of a historic resources survey, and develop a Plan that will recommend steps to take in the future.

Part A- Update Local Historic District Ordinances

Madison currently has five local historic districts, each with its own set of ordinance requirements for additions, alterations, and new construction. Some of these ordinances have not been thoroughly evaluated and revised since they were created-- some over 40 years ago.

The consultants will analyze the historic resources in each district, explore the successes and challenges in each, evaluate the current ordinances, and propose new or revised ordinance language. It is anticipated that three public meetings will be held in each district.

Review of the current ordinances will occur generally from the oldest to newest (Mansion Hill, Third Lake Ridge, University Heights, Marquette Bungalows, and First Settlement), although two or more may be occurring simultaneously with recommended revisions for all being made at the same time so that common issues among the districts may be addressed together and in a consistent manner.

Part B- Historic Resources Data

Having an inclusive, complete and accurate inventory of the places that tell Madison's stories and represent all of the people, places, events and other aspects is a necessary foundation for understanding and preserving what is most important. Part B builds on past efforts to document these resources by having a clear understanding of resources that exist, identifying gaps in the current inventory and survey, and developing a strategy for ensuring a complete and accurate survey that can be expanded in the future.

Part C- Historic Preservation Plan

The Historic Preservation Plan will provide a comprehensive framework for preservation related activities in the future, beyond the primarily regulatory role that the City currently plays. It will recommend strategies such as integrating historic preservation into public policy, using zoning and other land use tools, economic development opportunities, financial incentives, heritage tourism opportunities, and others.

The planning process will include a robust education and public engagement strategy with an emphasis on connecting with all groups who make up Madison's unique history.

Management and Oversight

This effort (Parts A-C) will be coordinated by the City's Planning Division, with the Preservation Planner, Amy Scanlon, serving as the Project Manager. City staff will work closely with and manage the consultant team.

The Landmarks Ordinance Review Committee (LORC) will be the lead primary working group on Part A (Ordinance Updates). For all other aspects, the Landmarks Commission will be the lead commission coordinating all parts of this effort and making recommendations directly to the Common Council. The yet to be created Advisory Committee will be the primary working group and advise staff and the Landmarks Commission on Part C (Preservation Plan).

Process and Timeline

Activities associated with all three parts described above will be occurring simultaneously over a two year period.

Public Involvement

This project will provide multiple means to engage residents, businesses, and others throughout the process. Plans currently provide for over 20 public meetings in addition to the meetings of the bodies listed above (all of which are public meetings). Although a specific public engagement plan has yet to be developed, activities already in the works include a project website and an oral histories project in partnership with the Madison Public Library.

Questions

Please direct any questions, comments, or stories about Madison's past to:

Amy Scanlon, Preservation Planner

ascanlon@cityofmadison.com

608.266.6552