

2023-0101 2023 Earl Borden Award Discussion

(Introduction Memo dated March 2, 2023, Selection Criteria, and Earl Borden Awards List had been placed on file and by reference became a part of the record thereof).

Chairperson Thompson stated that it was that time of year to consider nominations for individuals or structures that are worthy. He noted that the Commission has not always made nominations and the intent is to keep the award meaningful. He asked for any potential nominations or discussion.

Vice Chairperson Granthen noted that she had nominated one of the Quester groups last year and that idea had been set aside.

Dr. Stamps mentioned that he thought that there was some good publicity for last year's nomination of the Gatehouse at Meadow Brook Hall. He stated that it is a nice award and an honor and he thinks they deserved it. He commented that he thought the Questers do much good as well.

Vice Chairperson Granthen suggested that she saw Michael Klieman at one of the Oakland University basketball games and he invited the Commission to hold one of their meetings at the Gatehouse. She commented that this might get the Commission some recognition as well, and perhaps this year's awards could be given there.

Chairperson Thompson mentioned the logistics and suggested that paper packets be used for that meeting. He asked whether Vice Chairperson Granthen wished to make a nomination for the Questers group, or if there were any other nominations.

Vice Chairperson Granthen suggested that she would like to make that a nomination now so it can be discussed, as the Commission might meet infrequently and not hold a meeting for a couple of months.

Dr. Stamps asked how many Questers groups there are.

Vice Chairperson Granthen responded that she thought there were three groups.

Dr. Stamps questioned whether the other two groups might be offended if one group was given the award.

Vice Chairperson Granthen suggested that perhaps the other groups would contact the Commission to go over all of the wonderful things they are doing and they could be considered for another year.

Ms. Rogers stated speaking as a member of one of the other Quester groups, her group is in awe of the Quester group that does so much. She commented that there would be no worry on her group's side that they aren't worthy of recognition.

Dr. Stamps stated that given that strong support, he would like to second Vice Chairperson Granthen's recommendation.

Chairperson Thompson noted that this would be for the Preservation Award. He asked for any other nominations.

Vice Chairperson Granthen asked if the Commission wanted to recognize John Dziurman again posthumously.

Dr. Stamps stated that he didn't think so, as he previously received the award, and it is probably not necessary. He noted that the area would not have the Woolen Mills and brewery today if it had not been for John Dziurman, nor the architecture of Haig's Jewelers downtown. He recalled that on the John Dodge Farmhouse on the west side of Adams Road and a part of the Oakland University golf complex, there was some visionary individuals who thought the University should all look modern and were trying to get rid of anything old. The heat had been turned off and the pipes broke, all of the plaster in the basement was falling off, and it was empty and looking very bad, and it was suggested to be torn down. Dr. Stamps suggested at the time a professional should look at it and Mr. Dziurman volunteered his time and his report was that the bones were strong, but the surface was flaky. He had noted in his report that it still had potential and the University stabilized it and it is now part of the office of the Alumni Association and Outreach programs. He noted that they found an adaptive use. While it is still a creaky old building, it is an amazing one. He expressed his thanks to Mr. Dziurman for taking his love of architecture and skill set and sharing it with the community.

Chairperson Thompson asked how the award should be presented, and noted that there had previously been a request to City Council to present it last year.

Mr. McLeod asked if this would be a leadership or preservation award.

Ms. Rogers responded that the Questers are more geared toward preservation and restoration, and as a group they all work together at Meadow Brook Hall and have done some amazing things. They have someone there once or twice a week and have for years.

Mr. McLeod summarized from the Selection Criteria and stated that the Preservation Leadership Award may be presented to both individuals and organizations for outstanding historic preservation efforts in the greater Rochester Hills community. He commented that when he reads that he thinks of Quester efforts, however he would concur with however the Commission wants to phrase that.

Chairperson Thompson suggested that it was more of historic preservation leadership.

Mr. McLeod stated that if the Gatehouse was an option that would be a unique place to make the award. He added that May is Historic Preservation Month and it might be a good opportunity as well if it could all be pulled together.

Dr. Stamps stated that he likes that idea of recognizing a group that is doing a lot of preservation activities at Meadow Brook Hall, but he is not sure that presenting it there would get the community involvement. He suggested that doing it at City Council was pretty cool and asked if it might be presented twice.

Vice Chairperson Granthen asked if all of the other Quester organizations could be invited to City Council as well as to the Gatehouse.

Ms. Rogers noted that there are probably 18 to 20 women in each group, and there are four groups.

Chairperson Thompson asked if the Commission would want to do the two-pronged approach. He concurred with Dr. Stamps that there is more publicity at a City Council meeting as there is media, television and cable.

Dr. Stamps suggested doing the presentation at City Council and if it could be arranged at the Gatehouse, and then announce that the Questers have been invited to visit the Gatehouse for a presentation.

Discussed