



2025 JOHN SCHOENKNECHT SPIRIT OF PRESERVATION AWARD NOMINATION FORM

Recipients of the Schoenknecht “Spirit of Preservation” award must have demonstrated exceptional achievement in the preservation of more than one historically significant building, structure, or site, or have contributed in a tangible and exemplary manner to further historic preservation in Waukesha.

Nominations should be submitted to Charlie Griffith in the City of Waukesha Planning Department, 201 Delafield Street, Waukesha, WI 53188. Nominations may also be submitted by e-mail to cgriffith@waukesha-wi.gov.

All nominations are due no later than Wednesday March 26th, 2025. The Landmarks Commission will review nominations at the April 2nd, 2025 meeting.

Nominee David Kopp

Address Deceased – 2721 Brighton Dr.

Submitter Charlie Griffith

Submitter Contact Info (email or phone): 262-524-3529

Please provide a brief explanation of the merits of the project:

Dave Kopp passed away in 2024 at the age of 75. From 1984 until 2010, he served as the Secretary to the Landmarks Commission, and its primary staff advisor. That time saw the designation of all of the City’s historic districts and most or all of its individual Local Landmarks. It was also when the City became a Certified Local Government and when many properties were nominated to the National Register. During Dave’s time, Minniska and Hobo Springs were restored, and the Landmarks Commission published its *Spring City’s Past* book. It reviewed hundreds of Certificate of Appropriateness applications, and awarded many Paint and Repair Grants. Dave wasn’t solely responsible for those projects, but he was a part of all of them. He was instrumental in helping guide the Landmarks Commission through its many efforts, some successful and others unsuccessful, to preserve and recognize Waukesha’s history.

I never got the chance to meet Dave in person, but over the years I’ve had many opportunities to dig through the files or the old meeting minutes. Dave is a constant presence in those records. The more I read through them the more clear it has become how much he cared about the Landmarks Commission, and about Waukesha’s history and character, and how much pride he took in the work that he did to preserve it. I feel that Dave very clearly contributed in a tangible and exemplary manner to further historic preservation in Waukesha. His contributions are certainly worthy of this award.