

Lake Geneva Historic Preservation Commission Meeting Minutes

November 11, 2025 7:00 p.m. at Lake Geneva City Hall

President Ken Etten called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Lake Geneva City Hall

Present: Ken Etten, Louise Rayppy, Chris Brookes, Emily Hummel, John Halverson and Ja Nelle Powers.
Absent: Sonja Akright and Grace Hanny. Minutes were approved.

Comments from the public and correspondence. None

Reports on the Geneva Lake Museum upcoming events, including "Tuesdays @ Two" programs and the Maple Park Homeowners' Association and updates on the regulation of short-term rentals in the Maple Park Historic District. No "Tuesdays @ Two" until next Spring. Parade of Christmas Trees - November 22nd - January 5th, 2026. There are forty-four trees this year. New regulations pertaining to short-term rentals are working in the right direction.

Updates regarding Black Point Estate & Gardens, Horticultural Hall, and Historic Lake Geneva Walking Tours, including Black Point programs at the Lake Geneva Public Library and Badger High School. Black Point is closed for the season. Black Point winter movie club with the Lake Geneva Library is back for the 4th year. The movies are free and open to the public at 2 p.m. on the first Monday of each month from November through April. No Badger High School programs this winter, all at Library.

Updates on events at The Riviera, at the 1928 Geneva Theatre / Geneva Stage, or local news items relating to the Lake Geneva Historic Preservation Commission, including acknowledgement of the passing of former LGHPC member Tim Dunn. Tim was a contributing member, and he helped us a lot since he also was an alderman. No new information concerning the theatre.

Review of the current 2025 Lake Geneva Historic Preservation Commission City Budget and recent bills, invoices, and payments. Our current balance is \$12,094.37. Haskins Street sign - we have to pay for.

Discussion and comments regarding recent building / remodeling projects within National & State Historic Districts, including repairs at Oak Hill Cemetery office and Eduard Babayer's New House at 833 Wisconsin Street. Repairs are done at the cemetery, and house at 833 Wisconsin is also finished.

Update regarding the Hillmoor Archaeological Site Survey, the Hillmoor Commission, the ongoing work at the Hillmoor property, and the status of the grant for the proposed new Intensive Historic Survey of Lake Geneva. Nothing new about grants.

Update regarding the City of Lake Geneva Chapter 34 - Historic Preservation Ordinance, creation of a new Local Historic Landmark Application Form, and discussion on the nomination applications

for buildings such as the Lake Geneva Public Library as a Local Historic Landmark. Also review of our status as a Certified Local Government. Nomination for local landmark status for the Library is in the works. Also consideration for the Baker House. Commission formally approved making the Library a landmark. Motion approved to submit nomination for local landmark to Renee Hanlon, Building and Zoning Administrator.

Ongoing discussion regarding the repair and / or replacement of any of the existing historic plaques and signs, the proposed new Haskins / Crawford historical sign, the Lake Geneva Sanitariums sign, a potential Old Mill Pond historic sign in conjunction with the Lake Geneva Beautification Committee, and changes to the Sign Ordinance. New Haskin sign is at the Street Department. People coming into the Street Dept. have been observed reading the sign, it is there temporary until we find a permanent location for it. It was brought to our attention that the Railroad sign on Sage Street is in need of repair, will check it out.

Update regarding the status of the Three Graces statue and the 3-D scan of the Three Graces statue in Allerton Park in Monticello, Illinois, the latest City funding information, and the future plans and options for repair and/or replacement of the Three Graces statue. Have to obtain money to restore it, maybe a grant.

Status of recent Historic Plaque Program applications, the cost of plaques from Timberline Signs at \$300.68 each (including sales tax), application forms, and ongoing updating the list of past plaque recipients. No new information.

Discussion regarding new projects for the LGHPC, updates regarding our website www.historyoflakegeneva.org, who to contact at City Hall regarding reactivation and website revisions, and discussions with Jeff Miskie. Need someone at City Hall, who would be able to get our website up and running. Jeff Miskie has copies.

Discussion regarding adding a picture of Holy Communion Episcopal Church to display of National & State Historic Buildings in City Hall lobby. Ask Cathy Koch for a photograph of the church.

Update on the status of the I-phone app and Android app for A Historic Lake Geneva Walking Tour, including who to contact regarding reactivation of I-phone and Android apps, and discussion on how to better promote the apps. No new information.

Discussion regarding any new correspondence from Stephanie Klett and Deanna Goodwin at Visit Lake Geneva Chamber of Commerce on how the LGHPC can help promote tourism in Lake Geneva and better publicize our role in the community. No new information.

Review of any new information from Jason Tish at the Wisconsin Historical Society, National Trust for Historic Preservation, the Society of Architectural Historians, and the Wisconsin Association of Historic Preservation Commissions. Working with Jason concerning landmarks.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted, Louise M. Rayppy