

Lake Geneva Historic Preservation Commission Meeting Minutes

December 9, 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, Grace Hanny, Emily Hummel, John Halverson, and Ja Nelle Powers. Absent: Sonja Akright. Renee Hanlon, Building and Zoning Administrator attended our meeting. Minutes were approved.

Comments from the public and correspondence. None

Discussion to set the date for the Public Hearing for the nomination of the Lake Geneva Public Library as a Local Historic Landmark at our LGHPC meeting on January 13, 2026. Also updates regarding the City of Lake Geneva Chapter 34 - Historic Preservation Ordinance, the new Local Historic Landmark Application Form, and our status as a Certified Local Government. Renee Hanlon will be in attendance at this meeting. Submitted nomination for Public Library, nobody objected. Will set the date for Public Hearing concerning nomination at our next meeting on January 13th. Updates: People living within 300 feet of nominated building will receive notices of nomination. If there is a dispute, the nomination stops with us. Motion passed concerning section 34-61 of the Ordinance.

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. Maple Park Annual meeting (70 members). New regulations pertaining to short-term rentals are working in the right direction. Full time short-term Administrator -- one person.

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. B. P. 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. Due to construction at Library location of movies might be at a different location. Black Point Winter Book Club will meet at Inspired Coffee beginning 12/18. Geneva Lake Storytellers will be held at Geneva Tap House from 6-8 p.m. 12/18 -- Dec. - April.

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. Christmas Carol - At the Theatre - 12/18. A Very Seuss & Charlie Brown Christmas - Dec. 18 - 2:00 & 7:00 P.M.

Review of the current 2025 Lake Geneva Historic Preservation Commission City Budget and recent bills, invoices, and payments. Our current balance is \$9,436.72.

Discussion and comments regarding recent building / remodeling projects within National & State Historic Districts, including repairs at Oak Hill Cemetery office and Eduard Babayev's New House at 833 Wisconsin Street. Repairs are done at the cemetery, and house at 833 Wisconsin St. 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. Paper work for the grant is done. but didn't get grant yet, there are two bids. Will submit Grant to Jason tomorrow.

Ongoing discussion regarding the repair and / or replacement of any of the existing historic plaques and signs, the proposed new Haskins / Crawford historical signs, 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, waiting to be installed. Railroad sign on Sage St., needed to be repaired. Cost: \$2,555.00. Nothing has been decided on where the Mill Pond sign will go.

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. Probability it will cost around two hundred thousand. It is located at City Hall.

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. Jeff Miskie has photo copies of our website, need someone at City Hall, who would be able to get our website up and running. Motion passed to use \$2,000 to create new website.

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

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 / Lake Geneva Chamber of Commerce on how the LGHPC can help promote tourism in Lake Geneva and better publicize our role in the community. We will get promotion, because of Library becoming a landmark.

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. Wisconsin Historical Society Staff Meeting on January 14, Chris is going.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 P.M.
Respectfully Submitted, Louise M. Rayppy