

Lake Geneva Historic Preservation Commission Meeting Minutes

August 9, 2022 7:00 p.m. at Lake Geneva City Hall

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

Present: Ken Etten, Patrick Quinn, Louise Rayppy, Chris Brookes, Grace Hanny, Sonja Akright, Emily Hummel and Tim Dunn. Guest: Mary Jo Fesenmaier, Alderperson.

Review and approval of the minutes from July 12, 2022, Historic Preservation Commission Meeting.

Comments from the public and correspondence. None

Reports on the Geneva Lake Area Museum upcoming events including Tuesdays @ Two programs, and news from the Maple Park Homeowners' Association, including July 22, 2022, meeting regarding the number of Airbnb residences in the Maple Park Historic District. Tuesdays @ Two will resume back to 2:00 P.M. on September 6th. Frank Breneisen will portray his grandfather Frank Featherstone. Swift Night Out – Thursday, Sep't. 8. The 6th Annual Golf Outing, at Hawk's View on September 18th at 9:00 A.M. Emily informed us that the Maple Park Neighbor Association is concerned about the rise of Airbnb and short-term rentals. There has been an increase of 44% of short-term rentals since 2017. We discussed about limiting the number of nights to seven (Seven nights to stay). Emily contacted Tim Dunn and Ken called Dan Draper, about limitations to B&B and Airbnbs. Southeast Wisconsin have hardly no restrictions on Airbnbs or weekend rentals. Maple Park had a meeting on July 22nd at the United Methodist Church about Short Term Rentals. Large group of neighbors turned out to protest.

Updates regarding news on Black Point Estate & Gardens, Horticultural Hall, and Historic Lake Geneva Walking Tours. Maple Park Historic District Walk: Pioneer Cemetery, Saturday, Sep't. 10th and Sunday, Sep't. 11th. Oak Hill Cemetery Tours: Saturday, October 8th, and 15th, at 5 to 6:30 p.m.

Update on events at The Riviera, at the 1928 Geneva Theater, or local news items relating to the Lake Geneva Historic Preservation Commission. 1st Annual Friends of The Lake Gala, at The Riviera. Single Tickets – \$175. August 26th at 6 P.M. The Tap Room is open at the Theater.

Review of recent bills and invoices, updated current balance in the Lake Geneva Historic Preservation Commission 2022 City Budget. Our current balance is \$8,070.55. Thinking about getting more replacement signs done.

Updates on tributes to honor Jim Davis and Jackie Getzen's contributions to the LGHPC, including planting an oak tree at Oak Hill Cemetery in memory of Jim Davis and donating to the Lake Geneva Public Library for a paver in honor of Jackie Getzen. Patrick informed us that at Clint's discretion a tree will be picked out for Jim Davis and the bill will be sent to us. The paver that we approved to be placed at the Library will be installed at a future date.

Discussion regarding Historic Preservation Design Review rules for building projects within National & State Historic Districts and current building projects including the New House on the site of the Douglas House at 322 Madison Street, remodeled Houses at 930 & 932 Geneva Street, 1011 Main Street, and porch remodeling work at 534 Madison Street & 1127 Wisconsin Street. The porch at 534 Madison St. is being rebuilt, trying to get tax credit. Also the porch at 1127 Wisconsin is being rebuilt.

Update regarding submittal of Certified Local Government renewal application, the creation of a more inclusive Local Historic Landmark Ordinance based upon the Whitewater Local Landmark Ordinance, the Fond du Lac Historic Preservation Ordinance, discussions with City Attorney Dan Draper, and additional information from Jason Tish at Wisconsin Historical Society. Jason received our rough draft of a revised Historic Preservation Ordinance for Lake Geneva. Chris hasn't heard from him yet.

Update regarding suggestions from Mayor Charlene Klein relating to Lake Geneva Post Office Building, new signage by Patrick Quinn on the historic Post Office mural, and creation of a brochure by Sonja Akright promoting the history of The Riviera. Patrick conducted a brief informal survey at the Post Office. No complaints about the text of mural. We had a few suggestions about the signage on the historic mural. Should look more like a document with a gold trim around it, so it would stand out more. Sonja will have A-1 Graphic print the Riviera brochure using our 1844 logo with a gold border.

Discussion and update regarding placement and installation of a new Historic Sign for Oak Hill Cemetery to commemorate its designation as a National & State Registers of Historic Place. Also discussion regarding proposed new Historic Oak Hill Cemetery Plaque to be located on stone piers at entry gates. Nothing has been resolved regarding the placement and installation of the Historic Sign. Grace will call Jim Sherin if he knows someone who installs signs. Patrick is against putting new plaque on column at entrance to cemetery without permission from the descendants of the Sturges family. Chris will contact descendants in California and Colorado to get permission to do so.

Discussion regarding status of the Three Graces statue in Flat Iron Park, needed repairs, and potential relocation to the Geneva Lake Museum. Patrick – definite about not moving the Three Graces. Needs to be restored. Motion approved – to respond to the letter that Dave Nord sent to the museum. Also letter to City Council and Beautification Committee.

Review of recent Historic Plaque program applications, including, the cost of plaques from Timberline Signs at \$226.83 each (including sales tax), application forms, and ongoing updating the list of past plaque recipients. The new owners at 1121 Wisconsin St. has requested an application form for a plaque (1882). Will send them one.

Updates on the I-phone app and Android app of A Historic Lake Geneva Walking Tour, including reactivation of I-phone app, and discussion on how to better promote the apps, including presentations to the Lake Geneva City Council. Also report from Sonja Akright regarding required update renewal of I-phone app within 30 days of 4-22-22. The I-phone is no longer available. It wasn't maintained. Motion carried to have Sonja as our administrator and try to reinstate the account.

Discussion regarding new projects for the LGHPC, including future "Tales of Lake Geneva" programs updates to our website www.historyoflakegeneva.org, and discussion on any other potential future LGHPC projects that we might want to consider. No new information.

Update regarding the Lake Geneva Historic Railroad Site, including information from the Park Board regarding the future bench in memory of Ed Yaeger. Grace will talk to Cindy Yager about the bench. Report regarding any new correspondence from Stephanie Klett at Visit Lake Geneva / Lake Geneva Chamber of Commerce and Lake Geneva City Administrator David Nord on how the LGHPC can help promote tourism in Lake Geneva. No new information.

Update on 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. Jason informed us about the 2022 Local History & Historic Preservation Conference-Oct.12-14. Meeting adjourned at 8:45 P.M.

Respectfully submitted, Louise M. Rayppy