

Lake Geneva Historic Preservation Commission Meeting Minutes

June 14, 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, Louise Rayppy, Grace Hanny, Sonja Akright, Emily Hummel and Tim Dunn. Patrick Quinn and Chris Brookes were absent. Guest: Mary Jo Fesenmaier, Alderperson.

Review and approval of the minutes from May 10, 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 annual "Block Party" on Sunday, June 12, 2022. Museum's Summer Evening Programs: Olmsted's Geneva Lake Heritage – sold out. Lake Geneva's Sanitarium: July 20th at 6:00 P.M. Fundraiser to be held at the Maxwell Mansion the evening of July 15th at 6 P.M., \$50.00 per person. Geneva Lake Conservancy – new exhibit. Maple Park Summer Party at Topsy Turvy on June 12th enjoyed a good turn out.

Update regarding news on Black Point Estate & Gardens, Horticultural Hall, and Historic Lake Geneva Walking Tours. Black Point is open full time for the season. Walking Tour of Lake Geneva: Treasures and Triumphs – July 9, August 13, Sep't. 17, with Michael Rehberg.

Update on events at The Riviera, at the 1928 Geneva Theatre, or local news items relating to the Lake Geneva Historic Preservation Commission. The Keg Room at the Theatre is open, but the Theatre itself is not open yet.

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. We have spent \$354.45 so far this year.

Update on potential ways 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. At our last meeting we approved to buy a paver for \$250.00 to be installed at the Library to honor Jackie. The Cemetery Board, which Mary Jo is a member of, walked around the cemetery to look for an idea spot for the oak tree to honor Jim.

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. We discussed the remodeling work at 534 Madison Street and 1127 Wisconsin Street.

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 the Zoom meeting with Jason Tish on December 9. Chris revised our Local Historic Landmark Ordinance. We each received a draft of the revised ordinance which will be presented to the City for approval. Landowners should apply for historic Certificate of Appropriateness – good protection for Maple Park. We had a

discussion about why the Library is not on the Historic Register, and why Library Park does not have conservancy easement. Emily informed us that the University of Wisconsin did not want the old Lake Geneva tax records from the Walworth County Historical Society, as they were affected with mildew. Emily will inform Walworth County Historical Society of this.

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 had A-1 Graphic print a larger text of the history of the mural. The Post Office has it displayed in clear view. Sonja is working with Jim Sherin to make a digital copy of the logo symbol from our Walking Tour booklet to appear on the Riviera booklet that she is putting together. Will be ready for our next meeting.

Discussion 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. Mary Jo informed us that the Cemetery Commission suggested to have the sign next to the sexton building. Patrick thinks it should be in the triangle at the entrance. The majority of us believe it should be placed on the left pillar as you enter the cemetery.

Update regarding the status of the repair and/or replacement of six existing historic plaques and signs by Jim Sherin at Timberline Signs and which signs should be repaired next. Grace will talk to Tom Earle about our signs, if he knows anyone who would be able to put our new signs up.

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. No new information.

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. Apple notified us that we need an app administrator to check on this account every year. Sonja volunteer to do so. City needs to notify Apple of this. Mary Jo will talk to Jeff Miskie and Lana Kropf about this.

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. "Tales of Lake Geneva" was at the Museum last May.

Update regarding the Lake Geneva Historic Railroad Site, including information from the Park Board regarding the future bench in memory of Ed Yaeger. Ken will contact 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 Tish informed us of the Wisconsin Certified Local Government program.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Louise M. Rayppy