

Lake Geneva Historic Preservation Commission Meeting Minutes

November 8, 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, Sonja Akright, Emily Hummel and Tim Dunn. Absent: Grace Hanny.

Review and approval of the minutes from October 11, 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 regarding the number of Airbnb residences in the Maple Park Historic District. Winter Hours at the Museum begins November 1st. Monday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday: 11—3. Fourth Annual Parade of Trees: November 19—January 2. Emily met recently with David Nord to address the problem of Airbnbs at the Methodist Church. Discussion came up about short term rentals in Madison, but they don't have a lot of short term rentals. The alley between Cook and Madison, and Main and Geneva is in need of repair.

Update regarding news on Black Point Estate & Gardens, Horticultural Hall, and Historic Lake Geneva Walking Tours. Black Point is closed for the season, but they are having Movie Mondays at the Lake Geneva Library. The next film is "The Man Who Invented Christmas" on 12/12 at 2 p.m. Also at the Library – "Spiritualism"—November program. Black Point had their Board meeting this month.

Update on events at The Riviera, at the 1928 Geneva Theater, or local news items relating to the Lake Geneva Historic Preservation Commission. The original theater is still being restored.

Review of recent bills and invoices, updated current balance in the Lake Geneva Historic Preservation Commission 2022 City Budget, and discussion regarding proposed 2023 Budget. Our current balance is \$7,238.92. We received \$60.00 in cash for our Walking Tour books from the Museum. We took a vote (which passed) to have between 1,000 – 550 Riviera brochures printed and they will be available at the Chamber of Commerce.

Update on tributes to honor Jim Davis and Jackie Getzen's contributions to the LGHPC, including the dedication of the oak tree and plaque at Oak Hill Cemetery in memory of Jim Davis and the donation of a paver to the Lake Geneva Public Library in honor of Jackie Getzen. The Burr Oak has been planted near the office building along with the plaque, as of October 25. We decided to have a dedication in the Spring.

Sonja notified Jim's sister of this and she was very appreciative. Will send a video of this to her. The paver for Jackie will be installed later. Also \$15.00 for Post Office mural signage to be placed on a hard surface instead of paper. Took a vote – motion passed.

Discussion regarding Historic Preservation Design Review rules for building projects within National & State Historic Districts and current building projects including remodeled Houses at 534 Madison Street & 1127 Wisconsin Street. The work is progressing on the porch at 534 Madison 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 additional information from Jason Tish at Wisconsin Historical Society. Chris and Grace will meet with Dan Draper on November 15th to further discuss the revised ordinance for Historic Preservation. At their last meeting he suggested that it might be better to repeal and replace our present Ordinance.

Update regarding the installation of the new Historic Sign for Oak Hill Cemetery to commemorate its designation as a National & State Registers of Historic Place and the new Historic Oak Hill Cemetery Plaque to be located on stone piers at entry gates. The Historic Sign has been attached to the Civil War sign. The Plaque is ready to be put on pillar at entrance to cemetery. We have a donor who offered to pay for the plaque. Greg Odden at Glen Fern Construction has offered to install the plaque for free.

Update regarding the status of the replacement of existing historic plaques and signs by Jim Sherin at Timberline Signs, including the two additional plaques for the 700 Block of Main Street Historic District, and discussion on which signs should be repaired next. Tom Earle will install Main Street signs.

Report regarding repair and replacement of Samuel Donian Park sign, including discussions with Jim Sherin of Timberline Signs and Park Board members. We received the O.K. from the Park Board and Fred Walling to proceed with replacing the signs. Jim Sherin informed us that it will cost \$1,550.00. Motion approved to proceed.

Discussion regarding status of the Three Graces statue in Flat Iron Park, needed repairs, and potential relocation to the Geneva Lake Museum, and e-mail Ken Etten sent to the Mayor, City Administrator, and City Council members. We need to get Council approval—if there is a line item in the budget, Tim will find out—not going to contribute if it's not in budget. Ken will talk to Tom Earle about how to repair it. We prefer that it stays where it is, and will partly fund the restoration.

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. We approved a plaque for Ed and Kellie Baumann at 519 Madison St. It was built around 1887. Emily will check with County Clerk to find out the original date of house.

Update 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. Sonja is working on this. Need to get a copy of I-phone app. Our website is difficult to view. Ken noticed that the Maxwell Mansion is not on the I-phone Walking Tour—it should be.

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 “Tales of Lake Geneva” until Spring.

Update regarding the Lake Geneva Historic Railroad Site, including information from the Park Board regarding the park bench in memory of Ed Yaeger. The Street Department is working on a refinished park bench and it should be installed some time between now and next Spring. 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 LCHPC 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, and 2022 Local History & Historic Preservation Conference that was held on October 12—14, 2022. Ken and Chris signed up for it.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 P.M.

Respectfully submitted, Louise M. Rayppy