

Lake Geneva Historic Preservation Commission Meeting Minutes

January 10, 2023 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 December 13, 2022, Historic Preservation Commission Meeting.

Comments from the public and correspondence. None

Reports on the Geneva Lake Museum upcoming events, including the winner of the "Parade of Christmas Trees", and news from the Maple Park Homeowners' Association, including updates on the regulation of short-term rentals in the Maple Park Historic District. The first place winners of the Parade of Trees was Putz n' Around / Pete's Printing. Tuesdays @ Two: Lost Lake Geneva, with Chris Brookes, February 7th. Emily is busy answering questions and sending out news about short-term rentals, and also about Historic Preservation. We were informed that New York City has Strict B & B laws.

Update regarding news on Black Point Estate & Gardens, Horticultural Hall, and Historic Lake Geneva Walking Tours. Black Point is busy during the winter with their out-reach programs. They present a six-week – long series focused on the local history of Geneva Lake at Badger High School.

Update on events at The Riviera, at the 1928 Geneva Theater, or local news items relating to the Lake Geneva Historic Preservation Commission. Sonja passed around a selection of various thickness of paper to be used for The Riviera brochure. We each selected the one we preferred, as the Mayor requested that the brochure be printed on thicker paper. Also she showed us the new thicker signage for the mural at the Post office.

Review of recent bills and invoices, updates on the current balance in the Lake Geneva Historic Preservation Commission 2023 City Budget. Our current balance is \$5,165.92. Our budget for 2023 was approved for \$8,500. Also an additional \$2,000 for Historic Plaque purchases.

Updates 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 tree for Jim Davis and plaque have been planted. We will have a dedication in the Spring. The paver has been installed at the Library.

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 porch restoration work at 534 Madison St. will be completed in the Spring.

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. We were notified by Jason Tish that we need to complete our Annual Report by February 28th. Need to hear back from Dan Draper and Jason Tish. Authority to designate historic landmarks. Can recommend designation without owner's approval, but owner can appeal. Also approve or denial of historic project. We were informed that Villa Hortensia will be demolished.

Update regarding the status of the replacement of existing historic plaques and signs by Jim Sherin at Timberline Signs and discussion on which signs should be repaired next. Signs: 2, 3, 5, 6, 11, 12, 14—they should be looked at to see if they need to be repaired or replaced. If you see a sign that needs work let us know.

Discussion regarding status of the Three Graces statue in Flat Iron Park and the Special Board Meeting on December 6 to discuss needed repairs, potential relocation to the Geneva Lake Museum, and the e-mail Ken Etten sent to the Mayor, City Administrator, and City Council members. The Three Graces statue has been moved to the Geneva Lake Museum. A decision will be made to either restore it or make a replica of it. The Beautification Committee is accepting donations. There was a suggestion made that a donations box should also be at the museum.

Review of recent Historic Plaque Program applications, including delivery of new "c. 1887" to Ed & Kellie Baumann for their 1887 home at 519 Madison Street, the cost of plaques from Timberline Signs at \$258.48 each (including sales tax), application forms, and ongoing updating the list of past plaque recipients. The 1887 plaque was approved at our meeting on December 13, 2022.

Updates on the status of 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, any new information regarding required update renewal of I-phone app. Sonja is working on updating the I-phone app. Chris informed us that the Oral History at the Library has no appointments. Spread the word about this program.

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. Patrick has some ideas for the next "Tales of Lake Geneva".

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. 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, and 2022 Local History & Historic Preservation Conference that was held on October 12-14, 2022. Jason informed us of NAPC first webinar of 2023—February 2nd, also the Vibrant Spaces Grant, deadline 1/31/2023.

Meeting adjourned at 7:55 P.M.

Respectfully submitted, Louise M. Rayppy