

Lake Geneva Historic Preservation Commission Meeting Minutes

February 14, 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, Grace Hanny, Sonja Akright, Emily Hummel and Tim Dunn.

Review and approval of the minutes from January 10, 2023, Historic Preservation Commission Meeting.

Comments from the public and correspondence. None

Reports on the Geneva Lake Museum upcoming events, including "Tuesdays @ Two" programs, and news from the Maple Park Homeowners' Association, including updates on the regulation of short-term rentals and paid parking in the Maple Park Historic District. The history of the Chicago and North Western Railroad and the influence it had on making Geneva Lake a tourist destination will be the next "Tuesdays @ Two" on March 7th. A new exhibit will be an old-fashioned barber shop. Emily has a long list of violations concerning short-term rentals. And also no fines have ever been given to short-term rentals, according to David Nord. No paid parking in Maple Park for the time being.

Update regarding Black Point Estate & Gardens, Horticultural Hall, and Historic Lake Geneva Walking Tours, including Black Point programs at the Lake Geneva Public Library. Black Point will reopen in May. The Remarkable Women of Lake Geneva will be their first special event of the year on Mother's Day weekend. They put on sixty programs throughout the calendar year. Black Point has Movie Monday programs at the Library.

Update on events at The Riviera, at the 1928 Geneva Theater, or local news items relating to the Lake Geneva Historic Preservation Commission. We decided to take a pass concerning the National Historic Preservation Award, that was offered by MSI General. There are sixty five bookings for The Riviera so far this year.

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 \$10,385.00. We renewed our membership in WAHPC, for \$40.00.

Updates on tributes to honor Jim Davis and Jackie Getzen's contributions to the LGHPC, including scheduling the dedication of the oak tree and plaque at Oak Hill Cemetery in memory of Jim Davis. The dedication will take place in the Spring. The paver for Jackie has been installed at the Library.

Discussion regarding Historic Preservation 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 Street will be completed in the Spring. Owners who do upgrades on historic properties can apply for tax credits, but shouldn't do any work until you are approved.

Update regarding submittal of Certified Local Government renewal application by February 28, 2023, 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 Friday the 17th, to discuss our revised Ordinance. New draft is in compliance.

Update regarding the status of the replacement of existing historic plaques and signs by Jim Sherin at Timberline Signs and discussion and review of list on which signs should be repaired and/or replaced next. Ken will ask Jim if he would check on all the signs to be sure they have all been checked over. The Episcopal Church had a dedication of their new historic plaque on February 12th. A group of us attended. The new sign for the mural at the Post Office has been completed. Patrick will bring it over and have it installed.

Discussion regarding status of the Three Graces statue in Flat Iron Park and the Special Park Board Meeting on December 6 to discuss needed repairs, relocation to the Geneva Lake Museum, and the future plans for repair and/or replacement of the Three Graces statue. The 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.

Review of recent Historic Plaque Program applications, 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 Maxwell House will apply for a plaque.

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.

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" will probably take place in March.

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. Ken informed Cathy Koch (Episcopal Church) about Grant Funding for Sacred Places. Meeting adjourned at 8:15 P.M.

Respectfully submitted, Louise M. Rayppy