

Lake Geneva Historic Preservation Commission Meeting Minutes

September 12, 2023 7:00 p.m. at Lake Geneva City Hall

Temporary President Grace Hanny called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Lake Geneva City Hall

Present: Grace Hanny, Louise Rayppy, Chris Brookes, Sonja Akright, Emily Hummel and Tim Dunn. Ken Etten, Patrick Quinn were absent. Guests: Mary Jo Fesenmaier, Andrea Christian and Gregory Schroeder.

Review and approval of the minutes from August 8, 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 in the Maple Park Historic District. "Tuesdays @ Two" will be about Black Point Estate 1880's Fashions, October 3rd. Swift Night Out was a pleasant event. On September 17th, the 7th Annual Golf Outing. Get ready for the Parade of Trees—Reserve now. No new information on short-term rentals. Emily informed us that more families are moving into Maple Park.

Update regarding Black Point Estate & Gardens, Horticultural Hall, and Historic Lake Geneva Walking Tours, including Black Point programs at the Lake Geneva Public Library. Pioneer Cemetery Tours -- September 9th and 10th. Oak Hill Cemetery Tours 10/7 and 10/14. Winter local history series will start in September.

Updates on events at The Riviera, at the 1928 Geneva Theater / Geneva Stage, or local news items relating to the Lake Geneva Historic Preservation Commission. No new information.

Review of recent bills and invoices and updates on the current balance in the Lake Geneva Historic Preservation Commission 2023 City Budget. Draft Copy of Proposed 2024 LGHPC Budget. Our current balance is \$2,540.00.

Discussion and comments regarding recent building / remodeling projects within National & State Historic Districts. No new information.

Update regarding submittal of Certified Local Government renewal application on February 28, 2023; the proposed revisions and updates to the City of Lake Geneva Chapter 34 – Historic Preservation Ordinance including latest discussions with City Attorney Dan Draper and Jason Tish at Wisconsin

Historical Society; follow up on Special LGHPC meeting with Jason Tish on July 20; and the presentation at Committee of the Whole meeting on Monday, August 7, and at Finance, License & Regulation Committee meeting on August 15 regarding proposed changes to Chapter 34—Historic Preservation Ordinance and subsequent City Council action. Ordinance 23-08 passed. Five items to qualify for landmark status. Need pamphlet like Whitewater has. Jason did a good job of setting this up.

Discussion regarding the repair and/or replacement of existing historic plaques and signs by Jim Sherin at Timberline signs including six Maple Park Historic District Signs and the Mill Race Historic Sign, and review of list on which additional plaques and signs should be repaired and/or replaced next. Which signs to do between now and December 31. Took a vote, will discuss this at our next meeting.

Update regarding current status of the Three Graces statue, the relocation from Flat Iron Park to the Geneva Lake Museum, and the future plans for repair and/or replacement of the Three Graces statue. No new information.

Discussion regarding possible nomination of the former Hillmoor Golf Course property as a National Historic Landscape under the Department of Interior Historic Landscape program. Waiting for archeological landmark interest then can proceed to archeological grant. Nomination for State and National Register.

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. No new information.

Update 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. Updating and rewriting it. Sonja checked with University of Wisconsin—it wasn't maintained. Nobody was checking on app.

Discussion regarding new projects for the LGHPC, updates to our website www.historyoflakegeneva.org, and discussion on any other potential future LGHPC projects that we might want to consider. Website needs to be updated—budget money to have website updated. Sonja will get information from museum about how their website is put together.

Updates regarding the Lake Geneva Historic Railroad Site, including the clean-up and repairs to the paver "footprints" of the Railroad Turntable, Engine House, and Water Tower and comments from Mark Polyock at Lakes Brick & Block regarding potential high cost of repairs and/or replacement. Mark suggested replacing with 12" X 12" pavers or a simple concrete strip to mark the "footprints", but noted that any option will not be inexpensive. Will wait to find out how much it will cost.

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. Christi Hunter visited the Pioneer Cemetery Tour and E-mail Ken about the tour and it is a good way to promote the history of Lake Geneva, and also tourism. Chris attends their meetings.

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, including the 17th Annual Local History & Historic Preservation Conference in La Crosse, Wisconsin, on October 18-20, 2023.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 P.M.

Respectfully submitted, Louise M. Rayppy