

Lake Geneva Historic Preservation Commission Meeting Minutes

November 14, 2023 – 7:00 p.m. at Lake Geneva City Hall

President Ken Etten called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Lake Geneva City Hall

Present: Ken Etten, Patrick Quinn, Louise Rayppy, Chris Brookes, Sonja Akright, Emily Hummel and Tim Dunn. Grace Hanni was absent. Guests: Mary Jo Fesenmaier and Paula Porubcan.

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

Comments from the public and correspondence. Mary Jo Fesenmaier and Paula Porubcan filled us in regarding Hillmoor Golf Course property.

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 Districts. No "Tuesdays @ Two", busy putting up Christmas trees. The Wizard exhibit is about 80 percent complete. Christmas Trees exhibit opens November 18th, and closes Jan. 1st. The FLR Committee approved a soft ware company to oversee short-term rentals. Not ever a violation has been approved, concerning short-term rentals. Also approved replacement for Jim Meskie.

Updates regarding Black Point Estate & Gardens, Horticultural Hall, and Historic Lake Geneva Walking Tours, including Black Point programs at the Lake Geneva Public Library. Dave spoke about updating the conditional use permit and maintenance at the recent Reserve meeting. Black Point – Movie Mondays at the Library. All programs are from 2 P.M. –4:30 P.M. Also Badger H.S. history series. Three lectures at Big Foot H.S. Thru-out the year 76 programs at the Library. Outreach Coordinator: Chris Brookes.

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. Organ is being restored.

Review of recent bills and invoices and updates on the current balance in the Lake Geneva Historic Preservation Commission 2023 City Budget. Discussion and updates regarding Proposed 2024 LGHPC Budget and schedule for upcoming City Council meetings regarding publication and approval of the 2024 Operating & Capital Budgets. Our current balance is \$2,540.00. New budget has not been finalized yet.

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

Presentation by Paula Porubcan regarding Certified Local Government Grant Application for Hillmoor

Archaeological Survey and discussion regarding possible nomination of the former Hillmoor Golf Course property as a National Historic Landscape under the Department of Interior Historic Landscape program. City has to contact a contractor first – then goes to Finance Committee. Need three proposals from three contractors, then project manager has to sign the one that was selected – David Nord. Jason has been very helpful. Budget meeting – November 28, possibilities for Archaeological Survey.

Update regarding submittal of Certified Local Government renewal application on February 28, 2023 ; 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 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 approval by the City Council. Discussion regarding additional items we now need to complete to qualify for landmark status. Discussion about the expenses that we will have for nomination, advertising, and pamphlet like Whitewater has. Nomination of The Riviera for Landmark status.

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 status of four additional plaques and signs should be repaired and/or replaced, including Wisconsin Power & Light plaque, Chicago & Northwestern plaque, Lake Geneva Water & Light Co. plaque, and the Historic Railroad of Lake Geneva plaque. First payment of \$2,540.00, balance of \$495.00 will be paid when our budget is approved for the signs: 11, 14, 17, 18.

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. Has been moved to Upper deck of Museum. City not going to do anything about statue. Outside committee should be formed to handle this and get an estimate of how much it will cost to repair it.

Review of recent Historic Plaque Program applications, including 1033 Geneva 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 plaque for 1033 Geneva Street is almost done.

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. Update from Sonja Akright on any new information regarding renewal of I- phone app. Sonja has been talking with Meghan at the Museum about how to go about creating a new phone app and getting an estimate from her.

Discussion regarding new projects for the LGHPC, and updates to our website www.historyoflakegeneva.org , and discussion on any other potential future LGHPC project that we might want to consider. Update from Sonja Akright regarding who to contact on website update. Meghan suggested Media One.

Update 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 Lake Brick & Block regarding potential high cost of repairs and/or replacement. Mark suggested replacing it with 12” X 12” pavers or a simple concrete strip to mark the “footprints” but noted that any option will not be inexpensive. Had a discussion about how to go about drawing interest in the Railroad Site, and promoting it, so people will take an interest in it and help to maintain it. We will postpone this for next year’s budget.

Report regarding any new correspondence from Stephanie Klett and Chris Hunter 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 the 17th Annual Local History & Historic Preservation Conference that was held in La Crosse, Wisconsin, on October 18-20, 2023. The NAPC November Webinar – 11/16.
Meeting adjourned at 8:20 P.M.

Respectfully submitted, Louise M. Rayppy