

Lake Geneva Historic Preservation Commission Meeting Minutes

December 12, 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, Louise Rayppy, Chris Brookes, Grace Hanny, Sonja Akright, Emily Hummel. Patrick Quinn and Tim Dunn were absent. Guest: Mayor Charlene Klein.

Review and approval of the minutes from November 14, 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. There are forty one trees in the Parade of Trees. Santa Claus will be there on 12/16. Elevator lift will be installed. City Council approved to hire a company to monitor short-term rentals. Emily was appointed to be on the ad hoc committee for short-term rentals.

Update regarding Black Point Estate & Gardens, Horticultural Hall, and Historic Lake Geneva Walking Tours, including Black Point programs at the Lake Geneva Public Library. David, Michael, Chris, Brittany attended the All-Staff meeting of the Wisconsin Historical Society in Madison. Black Point – Movie Mondays at the Library. Also Black Point programs start at Badger High School in mid January.

Update on events at The Riviera, at the 1928 Geneva Theater / Geneva Stage, or local news items relating to the Lake Geneva Historic Preservation Commission. Musical version of Christmas Carol will be performed at Geneva Stage.

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 meeting regarding publication and approval of the 2024 Operating & Capital Budgets. Our current balance is \$2,540.00. No new information. Don’t know if budget has passed.

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

Update regarding Paula Porubcan’s Certified Local Government Grant Application for Hillmoor Archaeological Survey and discussion regarding possible nomination of the former Hillmoor Golf property as a National Historic Landscape under the Department of Interior Historic Landscape program. Grant application has been submitted.

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 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 approval by the City Council. Discussion regarding additional items we now need to complete to qualify for landmark status. In the new year an ad hoc committee should be formed to look over Whitewater pamphlet. Also sub committee to help publicize historic preservation and about landmark status. We need to out reach to the citizens to inform them of what we do and why it is important to our community.

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 that have been 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. The six Maple Park Historic District signs have been finished and put up.

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 info.

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 has been picked up.

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. Apple doesn't have an administrator, who would take care of it. Need support from City to make changes to the I-phone app. Need someone to maintain it and also copy what they do at the museum.

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. Update from Sonja Akright regarding who to contact on website update. No new information.

Updates regarding the Lake Geneva Historic Railroad Site, including possible options for 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 it with 12" X 12" pavers or a simple concrete strip to mark the "footprints" but noted that any option will not be inexpensive. No new information

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. Chris attends their meeting every month as the representative of Black Pt.

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. NAPC Webinar on Early 20th Century Architecture, 12/14/ at Noon.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 P.M.

Respectfully submitted, Louise M. Rayppy