

Lake Geneva Historic Preservation Commission Meeting Minutes

February 13, 2024 – 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 Hanny was absent. Guests: Michael Rehberg and Brittany Niequist, both from Black Point Estates & Gardens.

Review and approval of the minutes from December 12, 2023. Historic Preservation Commission Meeting and cancelled meeting on January 9, due to bad weather.

Comments from the public and correspondence. Michael talked about our new updated ordinance, should be on website, also paper work for people to nominate their properties. The Elkhorn Library program for May is Exploring Historical Properties in Walworth County.

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": Finding Fontana with Margaret Reuland, March 26, 2024. The Ability Lift is being installed. Also raising money for new L.E.D. lighting. A suggestion was made for a writing committee concerning short-term rentals. Less than seven days – no that would be against the law. Alderpersons shouldn't be on Ad Hoc Committee.

Updates 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 Book Club every month, also programs at Badger High School.

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. Last of the Red Hot Lovers at the Stage.

Review of recent bills and invoices, updates on the final balance in the Lake Geneva Historic Preservation Commission 2023 City Budget, and discussion regarding the new 2024 LGHPC Budget. Our current balance is \$10,925.00. End of 2023 budget: \$2,540.00. Call Jim Sherin if we still owe him money.

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 Course property as a National Historic Landscape under the Department of Interior Historic Landscape program. Paula is moving ahead on this. No new information.

Discussion regarding request for submittal of the 2023 Certified Local Government Annual Report and review of draft copy of report, including revisions and updates to the City of Lake Geneva Chapter 34 – Historic Preservation Ordinance and any additional items we need to complete to qualify for landmark status. Why is updated ordinance not showing on website? Have not close out certificate of appropriateness – ordinance does not protect – landmark, that is why we are trying to protect landmarks. Lake Geneva is moving faster in regard to landmark ordinance, except Whitewater, they already have it in place. Need Local Landmark Designation Nomination Form.

Update 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 the 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. Check with Jim Sherin.

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 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.

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. How are going to pay for a new I-phone ?

Discussion regarding new projects for the LGHPC, updates regarding the status of 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. Sonja informed us that no one is maintaining the website. Ken will contact Jim Meskie.

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. Wait until Spring.

Discussion regarding any new correspondence from Stephanie Klett and Deanna Goodwin 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 and better publicize our role in the community, including “ Wisconsin Historical Makers Tour History Walks” project proposed by Mallory Hanson at WHS. Ken received an E-Mail from Cathy Koch, Holy Communion Episcopal Church, asking for help in obtaining a grant to help restore some of their stained windows.

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. Sonja received certification from the National Alliance of Preservation Commissions.

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 P.M.

Respectfully submitted, Louise M. Rayppy