

Lake Geneva Historic Preservation Commission Meeting Minutes

March 12, 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, Grace Hanny, Emily Hummel and Tim Dunn. Sonja Akright was absent. Guest: Peg Esposito, Park Board.

Approval of minutes: Review and approval of the minutes from the February 13, 2024, Lake Geneva Historic Preservation Commission Meeting.

Comments from the public and correspondence. Peg Esposito attended our meeting and updated us about 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 District. “Tuesdays @ Two”: Finding Fontana with Margaret Reuland, March 26, 2024. In honor of the 50th Anniversary of Dungeon & Dragons the museum will be open all week March 18th through March 24th. City Council approved Ad Hoc committee concerning short-term rentals. Will keep rules as is. Some people have been fined.

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 will have a Celebration of Dungeons & Dragons at Horticultural Hall on April 7th. Black Point opens on May 4th. Mother’s Day Cruise on the tenth. Movie Mondays at the Library – 2 P.M. – 4:30 P.M.

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. Musical programs at the Theatre.

Review of recent bills and invoices and updates on the current balance in the Lake Geneva Historic Preservation Commission 2024 City Budget. Our current balance is \$10,925.00.

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 possible nomination of the former Hillmoor Golf Course property as a National Historic Landscape under the Department of Interior Historic Landscape program. Paula informed us that the survey has been approved – \$30,000. Will start work late May or early June. In May at the Library will have program about what we are planning on doing, also will have people come and look at the property.

Discussion and updates regarding the submittal of the 2023 Certified Local Government Annual Report, review

of revisions and updates to the City of Lake Geneva Chapter 34 – Historic Preservation Ordinance, development

of a new Local Historic Landmark Application Form, and additional items we need to complete to qualify for landmark status. The codification company that the City utilizes is in the process of posting the new ordinance,

it should be about 2-4 weeks. We have authority to have certificate of appropriateness – need a form to do this -

Landmark Preservation Ordinance application.

Update and discussion regarding the repair and/or replacement of any of the existing historic plaques and signs

by Jim Sherin at Timberline Signs. Most of the signs have been finished, need sign for sanitarium.

Update regarding current status of the Three Graces statue, the relocation from Flat Iron Park to the Geneva Lake Museum, and the future plans and funding for repair and/or replacement of the Three Graces statue.

We were informed that there is \$50,000 in the city budget for the restoration of the statue. Need update from Tom Earle.

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 presentation to the Lake Geneva City Council. Update from Sonja Akright on any new information regarding renewal of I-phone app. No new information.

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. Our website goes thru city link, but we need different website to go for Historic Preservation.

Update 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. Call Mark Polyock about how much it will cost.

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. About promoting Historic Preservation.

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.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 P.M.

Respectfully submitted, Louise M. Rayppy