

Lake Geneva Historic Preservation Commission Meeting Minutes

December 10, 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, Louise Rayppy, Chris Brookes, Grace Hanny, Emily Hummel, and Peg Esposito.

Absent: Patrick Quinn, Sonja Akright. Guests: Maureen Marks and Carole Sappington.

Approval of minutes: Review and approval of the minutes from the November 12, 2024, Lake Geneva Historic Preservation Commission Meeting. Correction: Black Point had Volunteer Luncheon at Tuscan Restaurant, not Library as stated in #6.

Comments from the public and correspondence. Guests were there to express their concern about short-term rentals.

Reports on the Geneva Lake Museum upcoming events, including Christmas Tree Parade, "Tuesdays @ Two" programs and the Maple Park Homeowners' Association, including updates on the regulation of short-term rentals in the Maple Park Historic District. The 6th Annual Parade of Trees, opened November 23th and will run through January 5, 2025. Christmas Parade -- Sunday before Thanksgiving. The MPHA had their meeting at the Methodist Church. It was well attended, two new officers were elected. City Council approved amended 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. Also discussion regarding upcoming special events next year at Black Point. Next year it will be 20 years since Bill Petersen donated the house to the State of Wisconsin. Black Point is closed for the season. Local History at Big Foot - 3 programs and 6 programs at Badger High School. Black Point Winter Book Club is back.

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. Monthly meetings of Visit Lake Geneva are held at the Geneva Stage.

Review of recent bills and invoices, updates on the current balance in the Lake Geneva Historic Preservation Commission 2024 City Budget, and discussion regarding our 2025 LGHPC City Budget. The current balance is \$8,850.00. Our budget for 2025 is \$10,000.

Discussion and comments regarding recent building / remodeling projects within National & State Historic Districts, including updates on status of Eduard Babayev's demo of Existing House and construction of New House at 833 Wisconsin St. The house has been torn down.

Update regarding the Hillmoor Archaeological Site Survey, the status of the proposed new Intensive Historic Survey of Lake Geneva, and any new discussion regarding the nomination of the former Hillmoor Golf Course property. Archeologists said not much was found at Hillmoor. Two outreach programs - one for kids, one for adults. January presentation at Library. Archeologists will come back in January and discuss what they had found at Hillmoor.

Discussion regarding updates to the City of Lake Geneva Chapter 34 - Historic Preservation Ordinance, development of a new Local Historic Landmark Application Form, and the status of nomination applications for buildings such as the Lake Geneva Public Library and The Riviera as Local Historic Landmarks. Two days ahead of deadline - \$30,000 was approved for the Historic survey of Lake Geneva. Jason Tish helped with approval. Chris, Emily, and Sonja going over last application. Going for Landmark status for Library. Original part of building will be named Landmark - 130 years old next year.

Discussion regarding the repair and / or replacement of any of the existing historic plaques and signs by Jim Sherin at Timberline Signs, the proposed new Lake Geneva Sanitariums sign, and a potential new Mill Pond historic sign in conjunction with the Lake Geneva Beautification Committee. Committee still has money for a sign about the history of the Mill Pond - sign on Main Street near pond and museum. We made a motion to approve the sign, and work with Beautification Committee.

Review of recent Historic Plaque Program applications and 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.

We approved a plaque for the Holy Communion Episcopal Church to be installed on their property honoring Father John McNamara, the abolitionist priest and Civil War chaplain. Requested by Cathy Koch.

Discussion regarding the status of the Three Graces statue, the latest City funding information, and the future plans for repair and / or replacement of the Three Graces statue based upon the existing Three Sisters statue in Allerton Park in Monticello, Illinois. Motion approved to have a 3-D scan of the statue in Springfield IL. Will cost \$2,500 to scan. Five thousand for all work to be done by Conrad Schmitt Studios, Inc. There is \$200,000 in capital improvement committee, according to Tom Earl.

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. Update 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, who to contact at City Hall regarding website revisions, and suggestions on potential future LGHPC projects that we might want to consider. Website is gone.

Discussion regarding any new correspondence from Stephanie Klett and Deanna Goodwin at Visit Lake Geneva / Lake Geneva Chamber of Commerce on how the LGHPC can help promote tourism in Lake Geneva and better publicize our role in the community. Annual meeting - Thursday and Friday, Wisconsin Historical Society. Chris will attend.

Update on any new 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. No new information.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 P.M.
Respectfully submitted, Louise M. Rayppy