

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2012 AT 6:30 P.M.

CITY HALL, CONFERENCE ROOM 2A

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Kehoe at 6:33 p.m.

Roll Call. Present: Commissioners Etten, Tanner, Fiske, Gretzen, Yaeger and Chairperson Kehoe. Others in attendance: Alderman Kupsik.

Approval of Minutes from October 11, 2012 meeting as distributed

Fiske/Quinn motion to approve. Unanimously carried.

Comments from the public. None.

Discussion/Action re: Article IV Historic Preservation Commission Procedures for Certificates of Appropriateness. Purchase of property now owned by existing home located in historic district, however home is not historic; Article IV, discussed and concurred that Certificate of Appropriateness is not required

Chairperson Kehoe said this topic refers to the Victorian Lodging property located at 1105 West Main Street which is for sale. She explained that a prospective buyer may be interested in tearing down the home and rebuilding on the property. Since it is located within a historic district, City Attorney Draper reviewed whether a Certificate of Appropriateness would be required if the owner wished to make any changes to the home. Chairperson Kehoe said that City Attorney Draper concluded a Certificate of Appropriateness is not required because it is not registered historic property. Commissioner Gretzen expressed concern for the impact that tearing down the property would have on the Maple Park neighborhood. Ms. Gretzen suggested the Commission review the ordinances to determine if there should be an approval process for any properties located within a historic district. Commissioner Quinn agreed this was an important issue that should be revisited.

Fiske/Quinn motion to meet with the Maple Park Homeowners body to discuss possibly revising the ordinances so that the Historic Preservation Commission has greater control over property changes made in historic districts. Unanimously carried.

Round table discussion of additional plans:

Ed Yaeger information railroad freight yard (from Oct. 11)

Commissioner Yaeger said he provided maps and presented information about the railroad freight yard at the October 11th meeting.

Lake Geneva walking tour brochure: Draft for Dec. meeting

Commissioner Gretzen suggested working with the Geneva Lakes Area Museum on content for the brochure. Commissioner Quinn suggested the museum sell the brochures for a small fee.

Ken Etten fundraiser at Maxwell Mansion Nov. 17

Commissioner Etten reported the Friends of Geneva Theater are holding a fundraiser on November 17th at the Maxwell Mansion to raise money for the theater restoration. Commissioner Fiske said tickets can be purchased online at brownpapertickets.com.

Dee Fiske Continue discussion re: Jason Church and maintenance of Pioneer Cemetery, please for Dec. meeting

The Commission discussed maintaining the trees and tombstones in Pioneer Cemetery. Commissioner Quinn said his neighbor recently retired and is willing to volunteer maintenance help at the cemetery. The Commission agreed that the cemetery gate should remain open during the day. Alderman Kupsik said this topic could be further discussed at a Committee of the Whole meeting.

Mary Tanner, please continue looking for possible new commissioners and tell us about the history of other historic home in other districts.

The Commission determined no additional commissioners were needed at this time.

Patrick Quinn, would you have the time to interview the 'Yunker' couple who will be bringing a historic diner to the city of Lake Geneva

Chairperson Kehoe explained that the Yunkers will be transporting an old railroad car from New Jersey to Lake Geneva to serve as a historic diner on Wells St. Commissioner Quinn said he would explore writing an article on the couple.

Commissioner Yaeger said he had another item he wished to speak about during the roundtable. Mr. Yaeger said the former railroad corridor and bridge area is at risk of being redeveloped. He said for about five years he has been trying to preserve this land as a park. Commissioner Fiske agreed it made sense for the area between Sage St. and the bridge to be made into a park. Alderman Kupsik said Mr. Yaeger's proposal was discussed on numerous occasions by the Board of Park Commissioners. He said the problem was that the property is the front yard of the Utility Commission and is partly owned by the Utility Commission. Commissioner Yaeger said all he is asking for is the section from the bridge to Sage St. Alderman Kupsik said he would see that this item is discussed at the Committee of the Whole meeting in December.

Kehoe will re-study the needs of Pioneer Cemetery; also invite members of Oak Hill Cemetery to future meeting.

Chairperson Kehoe said she will study the needs of Pioneer Cemetery so that she can better understand the issues facing the cemetery.

Kindly provide email address and/or contact telephone number to provide agenda

Chairperson Kehoe collected contact information from commissioners.

Thank for input in this meeting; motion to adjourn

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 13th.

Quinn/Fiske motion to adjourn at 8:04 p.m. Unanimously carried.

Transcribed from audio tape.

/s/ Michael D. Hawes, City Clerk

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BY THE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION**