Lake Geneva Historic Preservation Commission Meeting Minutes

February 13, 2020 6:30 p.m. at Lake Geneva City Hall

President Ken Etten called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. at Lake Geneva City Hall

Present: Ken Etten, Patrick Quinn, Louise Rayppy, Jim Davis, Chris Brookes, Tim Dunn. Jackie Getzen and Grace Hanny were absent. Guests: Charlene Klein and Michael Rehberg.

Approval of minutes from January 9, 2020, Historic Preservation Commission Meeting.

Comments from the public and correspondence. None

Reports from the Geneva Area Museum and Maple Park Homeowners. Tuesdays @ Two: Irish Woods --March 17th. History of the Lake Geneva Public Library—March 24th. The new exhibit Dungeons and Dragons at the museum is set to open in late Spring. It will be called "A Legacy of Imagination". Chris informed us that on 3/15, the library will have a program called Story Corps, about telling stories.

Update on programs at the 1928 Geneva Theater, restoration work at The Riviera and local news items relating to the Lake Geneva Historic Preservation Commission. The Geneva Theater Actors Guild's next performance will be A Couple of White Chicks Sitting Around Talking, by John Ford Noon and Loudon Wainwright III—Wednesday, 3/11/20, 7:30 P.M. Friday, 3/13/20, 10:00 A.M. Jim brought up the subject concerning the restoration work that will be done on the Riviera. He suggested that Ken compose a letter to be directed to the Mayor and City Council regarding changes to The Riviera. Any changes that would jeopardize The Riviera designation as a National and State Historic Building should not be allowed. We ask that we get assurance in writing that will keep the integrity and historic designation of the building intact. Chris has been researching Cordelia Ford, and her relationship to the Ford Opera House, which is now The Geneva Theater. There will be a program about her. Ken received an email from Steve Targo, Lake Geneva Regional News, asking for a list of the 10 Most Architecturally Significant Buildings in the Lake Geneva area. Ken sent him a list and we supplied additional suggestions at the meeting.

Review of any updates re: Black Point Estate & Gardens, Horticultural Hall, and Historic Lake Geneva Walking Tours. Kathleen Phillips, Chris, and Dave Desimone will talk about the Maple Park Walking Tour for this Fall. One change will be that a single person will be at different places. Dave presented a Tuesday @ Two program at the museum—Why Old Places Matter. There are three qualifications that apply to a historic house: Age, Significance, Integrity—near original. The Remarkable Women of Lake Geneva will be held at Black Point on May 10th. We received $19.00 from Michael Rehberg from the sale of our Walking

Tour booklets. We used to charge $1.00 for the books, now we suggest asking for $2.00. Michael and Joe DeRose will hold a work shop at Heritage Hall in Elkhorn on April 18th about researching your house. Charlene brought up about the mural that is painted on the wall at the Post Office. It was painted by the WPA and should be preserved and have a plaque. WPA: The Works Progress Administration.

Review of recent bills and invoices and updated current balance in the Lake Geneva Historic Preservation Commission 2020 City Budget. Our budget for 2020 is $6,500.00. We issued a check for $40.00 to renew our 2020 membership in Wisconsin Association of Historic Preservation Commissions.

Follow up on presentation by Stephanie Klett, Kathy Clothier and Deanna Goodwinn of Visit Lake Geneva / Lake Geneva Chamber of Commerce and discussions with Lake Geneva City Administrator David Nord on how the LGHPC can help promote tourism in Lake Geneva. No new information.

Update on Historic Preservation Design Review rules and regulations for building projects within National & State Historic Districts, the creation of a Local Historic Landmark Ordinance, and current potential building projects including the status of the 1902 Frank Johnson Residence / Bricks & Mortar Building at 832 Geneva Street and the Douglas House at 322 Madison Street. Renovation work has begun on the Brick & Mortar Building, should open this Spring. The owners of 322 Madison has contacted contractors about what they should do—they still want to tear the house down.

Update regarding the Lake Geneva Historic Railroad Site, including information from the Park Board regarding the future bench in memory of Ed Yaeger. No new Information.

Discussion regarding how better to publicize and promote the new Android and I-phone app of A Historic Lake Geneva Walking Tour, coordinate dates on apps and plaques, and organized future presentations to the Lake Geneva City Council. We need to improve our I-phone app since we compared it with the Android app and found flaws in the I-phone app which needs to be corrected. Way too much on I-phone, need to be simplified. Jim and I are going to meet to sort this out. We will compare our two phones, Jim has an I-phone and I have Android. Then Jim will call Josh Sullivan.

Discussion regarding new projects for the LGHPC, including future "Tales of Lake Geneva" and status of our website www.historyoflakegeneva.org. About "Tales of Lake Geneva", Patrick said he is open for suggestions.

Review the status of recent Historic Plaque Program applications, including the cost of plaques from Timberline Signs at $152.98 each (including sales tax), application forms, ongoing updating the list of past plaque recipients, repair of existing historic signs, and any new information regarding restoration of "Pillsbury" sign. We talked about the ongoing updating the list of past plaque recipients.

Report by Patrick Quinn regarding status of the National Register of Historic Places nomination by Gail Klein for Oak Hill Cemetery as a National and / or Local Historic Site, including any additional research information on Oak Hill Cemetery and H.W.S. Cleveland and City Street Department repairs to tombstones. Gail Klein informed us that the nomination will not be completed until this summer.

Update on information from the Wisconsin Historical Society, National Trust for Historic Preservation, the Society of Architectural Historians, and the Wisconsin Association of Historic Preservation Commissions. We reviewed the information.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 P.M.



Respectfully submitted,

Louise M. Rayppy