

Lake Geneva Historic Preservation Commission Meeting Minutes

January 9, 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, Louise Rayppy, Jim Davis, Chris Brookes, Grace Hanny, Tim Dunn. Jackie Getzen and Patrick Quinn were absent. Guests: Mayor Tom Hartz, Doug Skates, Charlene Klein.

Approval of minutes from December 12, 2019, Historic Preservation Commission Meeting.

Comment from the public and correspondence. None

Reports from the Geneva Area Museum and Maple Park Homeowners. Tuesdays @ Two: Votes for Women—February 4th. Celebrate the 100th Anniversary with Chris Brookes. Devil in the White City, H.H. Holmes—February 25th. Putting together the new exhibit Dungeons and Dragons at the museum is proceeding slowly.

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 Almost Maine, by John Cariani—Wednesday, 2/12/20, 7:30 P.M. Friday, 2/14/20, 10:00 A.M. Mayor Tom Hartz and Alderman Doug Skates attended our meeting to discuss the restoration work at The Riviera and also to get our feedback. The City would like to lengthen the windows on the 1st floor to allow for views of the lake. The WHS is against this, the windows should remain the same, since the building is on the National and State Register of Historic Places. They will keep us informed. It all depends on what kind of an agreement the City reaches with WHS/SHPO.

Review of any updates re: Black Point Estate & Gardens, Horticultural Hall, and Historic Lake Geneva Walking Tours. As of this date Black Point has had 65 outreach programs this winter. Also they are having their Local History Series at Badger High School. Charlene Klein attended our meeting since she is running for Mayor. Also she manages Horticultural Hall. She informed us that the Hall will do some work on the exterior grounds and also on the north side in memory of Harry Hartshorne. The Hall is fully booked for the year.

Review of recent bills and invoices and updated current balance in the Lake Geneva Historic Preservation Commission 2020 City Budget. We spent \$5,039.90 in the year 2019. 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 / Brick & Mortar Building at 832 Geneva Street and the Douglas House at 322 Madison Street. Renovation work has begun on the Brick & Mortar Building. 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. Discussions about the bench still going on.

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. Jim will call Josh Sullivan about improving 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.

Discussion regarding new projects for the LGHPC, including future “Tales of Lake Geneva” and status of our website www.historyoflakegeneva.org. Tim has several other people interested in making Pioneer Cemetery a historic site.

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. Owner of 823 Center St. interested in a plaque, will send him an application. Small signs advertising our walking tour apps are supposedly hanging on our large signs, will check on this. Have not paid for them yet.

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 8:40 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Louise M. Rayppy