

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

Time and Date: Wednesday, September 24, 2014, at 4:00 p.m. in the Birch Room of Wausau City Hall
Members Present: Gisselman (C), Tryczak, Forer, Burke, Crooks (arrived at 4:04 p.m.), Bahr (arrived at 4:11 p.m.)
Others Present: Lenz, Jean Gidlund

In compliance with Chapter 19, Wisconsin Statutes, notice of this meeting was posted and transmitted to the *Wausau Daily Herald* in the proper manner.

Chairperson Gisselman called the meeting to order at approximately 4:00 p.m. stating that a quorum was present. Everyone present introduced themselves.

Approve the minutes of the August 27, 2014 meeting.

Burke motioned to approve the minutes of the August 27, 2014 meeting. Forer seconded, and the motion carried unanimously 5-0.

Discuss Federal Building historic sign plans and possible recommendation for the 2015 budget.

Gisselman explained that the agreement made with Metro Plains to develop the Federal Building included placing a sign near the principle access to the property within six months and referenced the document that was handed out. The National Park Service would like the city to install a State Historical Society marker in front of the Federal Building.

Lenz said the deadline has passed but Michelle with the National Park Service suggested installing it sometime within the next year.

Crooks asked how the sign would be designed.

Gisselman stated that the wording is listed in the agreement and the sign will have the State Historical Society design on some type of plaque. He did not have an exact estimate for the cost but stated it would likely be between \$1000-2000.

Crooks asked if the sign would be near the main entrance.

Gisselman confirmed that it would be at the main entrance, on one side, likely on First Street. He will research the cost and details for this sign.

Crooks motioned to request the cost of this sign from the Common Council for the 2015 budget. Tryczak seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Discuss historic street signage.

Gisselman presented a revised drawing of the street sign, completed by Department of Public Works, which included Andrew Warren Historic District above the street name, Franklin, as an example. This sign could be done on a brown background. This mockup is taller than a standard street sign in order to include the title of the district. He asked if the commission had a logo because that could be added to the sign as well.

Crooks stated there was not an official Historic Preservation Commission logo.

Gisselman recalled a metal placard from the seventies.

Gidlund said that her house has a bronze plaque with the name Knox Kreutzer and the date.

Gisselman estimated that part of the Andrew Warren and Easthill districts could receive signs initially.

Tryczak asked if a logo could be designed.

Forer suggested something like the drawing of the buildings.

Gidlund added that she's seen logos with the outline of a Victorian lamppost similar to the ones on Franklin. She added that her son is a graphic artist and could work on a design.

Crooks recommended having the historic signs be the same length as standard signs.

Burke motioned to request \$1000 for historic district street signs from the Common Council for the 2015 budget. Bahr seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Update on Sav-O Supply.

Gisselman explained that MetroPlains submitted a report to the State Historical Society in order to receive funding to develop apartments at this location. The State Historical Society was not convinced that this building warranted being nominated to the National Register of Historical Places as the last remaining factory building in the downtown area. That would make MetroPlains ineligible for federal historic tax credits. Gisselman wrote a letter of support for MetroPlains to be added to the National Register but the representative for Wisconsin was also skeptical regarding nomination. He distributed the report drafted by MetroPlains to the commission. Gisselman asked the commission how to proceed and offered that the building could be added to the local historic landmark registry.

Lenz stated that this area used to be a working class neighborhood.

Gisselman said that since this neighborhood has now changed in nature it would not warrant a historic district but the building could be designated as a landmark.

Forer asked what the reasoning would be for designating the building as a landmark.

Gisselman said that it is the last remaining factory associated with the early paper mills; it was also a bag company and a shoe company.

Crooks clarified the process, that the State Historical Society representative makes recommendations to the National Parks Service.

Gisselman added that typically a landmark is designated if something significant happened there or if a prominent person lived there.

Lenz added that the structural engineers pointed out that the construction included clay tile which is unique to this area.

Crooks asked if designating this building as a local historic landmark would influence the National Register.

Gisselman stated that it may or may not have any influence on their decision. Unfortunately this development won't proceed until the building is added to the National Register for the tax credits.

Crooks outlined that surrounding owners would be notified, a public hearing would be held and then the commission would make a decision which would be passed onto the Plan Commission. He said this property is the last factory building remaining in the downtown area, along with the various companies and tiles used would justify making it a historic landmark.

Crooks motioned to hold a public hearing to consider designating 1418 North First Street as a local historic landmark. Tryczak seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Lenz will verify the timeline identified in the municipal code.

Discuss Historic Landmark suggestions.

Gisselman said there haven't been any new developments about landmarks on the west side and he would have a more full report next month.

Burke asked about the park at the Sumner Pleasantview building.

Forer and Gisselman confirmed that the building was designated.

Crooks asked if the Forest Park building was a landmark.

Gisselman said this would be researched whether or not it was a landmark. He confirmed that the Marathon Park buildings, Oak and Fern Islands, etc were landmarked.

Gidlund asked if bridges could be landmarked because she was kayaking by Fern Island and noticed the small bridge structures.

Crooks asked for an inventory of local landmarks.

Discuss potential new members.

Gisselman stated that Jean Gidlund, who recently moved to Wausau, came up in previous discussions as a potential new member.

Gidlund introduced herself and said that she recently moved here with her husband Cliff Gidlund. They fell in love with a house in the Andrew Warren historic district, 504 Franklin Street. She has a degree in historical preservation and has a bachelor's in interior design and fell in love with this house at first sight. They put an offer on the house the day they saw it and the following weekend went on the historic homes tour. They are very impressed with Wausau, its beauty and people, that it's so community oriented and knew they were in the right place. She has a real passion for historic preservation, especially old architecture which she has always been drawn to. Gidlund said she's interested in playing a part, working and serving in Wausau.

Gisselman said that Patty Grimm, the manager of Pine Grove Cemetery, was also discussed as a potential new member. She has a deep commitment to Wausau history and the families she meets on a daily basis. Grimm is also interested in being on the commission. Gisselman will take these two names to the

mayor's office and the council will vote on the members sometime in October.

Future agenda items and next meeting date(s)

A public hearing and potential historic landmarks will be discussed at future meetings. The next meeting will be held on October 29, 2014 and the public hearing would likely be at the same time.

Adjournment

Bahr motioned to adjourn. Forer seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Gary Gisselman, Chair