

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

Time and Date: Wednesday, March 25, 2015, at 4:00 p.m. in the Birch Room of Wausau City Hall
Members Present: Gisselman (C), Burke, Grimm, Gidlund
Others Present: Lenz, Schock, Priebe

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 not present.

Approve the minutes of the February 25, 2015 meeting.

The approval of the minutes was postponed until the next meeting since a quorum was not present.

Discuss signage for Wausau's Historic Districts.

Gisselman asked Schock for his input on signage in the historic districts. Schock introduced himself and said he would like to help with the signage process. He asked where the process was and said when he moved to the area he had a hard time knowing the boundaries of the historic districts. Gisselman said that last year, steps were taken for signage. With the massive budget crunch, Gisselman said was leery to ask for the funding. This could be picked up again. Schock said that the committee could go to neighbors to help sponsor the logo on blades or a round sign on a pole showing the entrance and exit of historic districts. This would help to enforce an identity. There are people in the neighborhood that do not know where the boundaries of the districts are located. Gisselman said that discussion could be started. Schock added that blade signs could be added when additional funding is available.

Schock suggested a competition to get some logo suggestions. Gidlund agreed and said it would be fun to see other logo ideas. The commission discussed who would judge the signs. Gisselman said that logos from the past commissions could be brought to the commission to look over. The commission discussed the size of the signage. Schock asked if there was any architect that was involved with the signage. Lenz answered that a local sign shop could be contacted. Schock asked about contacting school art programs for interest. Gidlund added that web designers may like this idea also. Gisselman said that the commission could give an award. Lenz said that more time would be involved that one would anticipate. Schock asked who sponsored the prizes for the bicycle racks. Lenz answered that Compass Properties sponsored the majority of the prizes. There were costs associated with developing the racks, but in the end it was donated. It was good for publicity.

Schock asked if letters could be sent to the residents. Gisselman said that when the historic districts were made party of the local historic districts, public hearing notices were sent to the property owners. Schock said that information could be sent out in a letter. Gisselman said he would look into Friends of Wausau to see if it is still in existence. Burke said that a letter for the city can be intimidating. Gisselman said he would talk to Maryanne.

Discuss Historic Preservation in Wausau Comprehensive Plan.

Lenz said that currently the Comprehensive Plan is being updated. The format may change. The current plan was adopted in 2006. Currently, there are 2 segments: Volume 1 and Volume 2. One volume goes over the goals and the other volume goes over the recommendations. The commission will be used as experts in the area and the driving force of this portion of the Comprehensive Plan. Paula from the Regional Planning will be partnering with the group. Last month, the commission discussed minor changes and items that haven't been done could be looked at. This is an introduction to the process.

Priebe said the previous plan is used as the foundation. Priebe said this will be a beneficial partnership. Gisselman said he would like this to be a 5-year mission statement. It is a time to think outside the box. Gisselman said he would like to get some experts, from the state level, sit and discuss during an evening meeting. Priebe added that the vision is typically for a 20-year horizon. It would be good to take a stock in the housing and look at where the commission wants to go from here. It is a good time to educate. Lenz said that in the meantime, the commission can look to see that the background information is complete.

Discuss Historic Preservation Month Activities.

Gisselman handed out a proclamation that the mayor would sign declaring May for Historic Preservation Month. Gisselman said that a historic house tour is scheduled for May 17. Schock asked what houses would be in the tour. Gisselman said the Marchetti House will be, but the tour list is still being formulated.

Discuss and possibly recommend signage for the Federal Building.

Gisselman said that a friend of the commission will be donating a brass or bronze plaque for the exterior of the building in conjunction with the interior plaque. The interior and exterior signage will be presented in May.

Discussion and possible action on submitting a grant application for city of Wausau intensive historic survey.

Gisselman said that the last historical study was completed in 1984. There was a suggestion that a new survey be completed. A grant would need to be written. David Wood is anticipating adding a new historic district in the city. The new district would be the Highland Park, north of the Easthill Residential Historic District. A map was handed out to the members. Gisselman said there may be some boundary issues. The first part would be the writing of the nomination grant. The second part would be including the district being part of the city local historic district with informational meetings and public hearing. This may be a controversial issue. Schock said that there were others more recently done. Gisselman said the last ones were to put in the city, but they were already nationally recognized. Schock asked about extending the existing historical district. Gisselman answered that it is a unique and separate neighborhood. Lenz asked if the boundaries would need to be changed or squared off. Gisselman said that properties less than 50 years old would not qualify. There are some pivotal and contributing homes. Lenz asked if money would be available if it is applied for. Gisselman said funding for the survey may be available. Schock asked about support from the neighbors. Gisselman said that a public hearing of the Easthill Residential Historic District and Andrew Warren Historic District were fairly supportive to preserving the neighborhoods. There were some that didn't agree. Lenz added that the last time the ordinance was picked apart during one of the public hearings. Gisselman said that the ordinance was revised after the public hearing. Gidlund added that being part of a historic district is a win/win.

Future agenda items and next meeting date(s)

The next meeting is scheduled for April 29, 2015. There weren't any additional items to add to the agenda.

Adjournment

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Burke motioned to adjourn. Grimm seconded, and the motion carried unanimously 4-0. The meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Gary Gisselman, Chair