

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

Time and Date: Wednesday, July 29, 2015, at 4:00 p.m. in the Birch Room of Wausau City Hall
Members Present: Gisselman (C), Grimm, Oberbeck, Crooks, Tryczak
Others Present: Lenz, Schock

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.

Discussion and possible action on Historic District Logo and Signage.

Gisselman said that possible logos were presented to the members in the packet. Oberbeck said that it is lightened from the original painting where the colors were more muted.

Crooks asked about putting a border around the picture, perhaps a golden-brown one with lettering as in the original painting. The commission agreed with adding a border and discussed different color options that could be used.

Grimm asked if a small graphic, like a dot, could separate the city of Wausau from the other lettering. Schock said the different historic districts could be listed also.

Crooks motioned to approve the Historic District Logo and Signage using a border with text and a separation of phrases. Grimm seconded, and the motion carried unanimously 5-0.

Discussion and possible action on Certificates of Merit for: (a) 929 McIndoe Street; (b) 404 Franklin Street.

Gisselman passed around a photo of the 929 McIndoe Street garage that is very sympathetic to the house. Grimm said that it was part of the intensive historic survey. Schock asked what the other, existing garage will be used for. Crooks said he thought it would still be used for a garage.

Gisselman said that a Certificate of Merit is issued to honor a property owner for keeping in good sympathy of the historic nature of a property. These have not been done lately.

Crooks motioned to issue a Certificate of Merit for 929 McIndoe Street. Tryczak seconded, and the motion carried unanimously 5-0.

Gisselman said a garage was also added to the 1st Church of Christ at the corner of 4th Street and Franklin Street. Crooks asked if this was in the Andrew Warrens Historic District. Gisselman said that is correct. Crooks asked when the work was complete. Gisselman said 1 ½ years ago. The commission discussed the use of the building and Grimm said it is fantastic inside. Grimm asked if this could be done for the whole project. Gisselman said the commission doesn't look at the interior of the structures. Grimm said that so much of the interior was preserved.

Grimm motioned to issue a Certificate of Merit for 404 Franklin Street. Oberbeck seconded, and the motion carried unanimously 5-0.

Discuss Watch List of Endangered Structures.

Gisselman said that a Certificate of Appropriateness was issued for 802 Franklin Street to install vinyl siding.

Lenz said last month the school building located on the Catholic block was discussed. Gisselman said he is waiting for the city to take ownership so a tour can be scheduled.

Crooks said that he likes old garages that used to be horse barns and said that the commission should start to look at them. Their life span is not very long. The garage behind Lopnnows bar looks totally different and doesn't have the same character. There is one over by Charter Communication that has a painted sign and said it is very classic. Crooks said these should be inventoried.

Tryczak said the Wausau Pickers building used to be an oyster pail factory. It has exposed wood beams on the inside. Lenz said the saw-tooth windows on the roof are interesting. He said these places could potentially become part of the historic survey. Gisselman said it could generate into a listing of potential landmarks.

Discuss Historic Preservation in Wausau Comprehensive Plan.

Gisselman said that he wanted to have a brainstorming session to identify structures for the next 5 years. The Comprehensive Plan will present these ideas.

Grimm said we could develop a list of possible entities that would be interested in preserving interior items from structures when they are razed, like the school. People on the list could be contacted so that items could be saved and the items could be tracked. Gisselman said that it is a good idea because a lot of items have gone away. Grimm said it would be interesting to keep track. Lenz said that policy recommendations in the plan could involve reusing elements of a building, if preservation of the entire property is not feasible. Oberbeck said that if there would be an inventory, it could be included in upcoming projects to have a piece of Wausau history. Gisselman said Habitat for Humanity goes into home structures and the Fire Department sometimes invites them into burns, but by that time it is not in a good condition.

Gisselman said that a list of possible landmarks could be generated. New historic districts could also be looked at, possibly on the near west side. Oberbeck said that there are some older homes on the hill. Gisselman said that retail, service, and manufacturing should be looked at also.

Oberbeck and Crooks said that the factories and warehouses should be looked at. Gisselman said that Scottie's Interiors would be at the northern end of a potential historic district. Grimm said that there is something very special about the house directly north of Scottie's Interiors and said she would find out what that was. Tryczak said there are a lot of houses that are over 100 years old. Gisselman said that 80% of the homes are centennial homes. Lenz said that an endangered structures list could be added to the Comprehensive Plan because it would be good to have that documented. Gisselman said it would be an important part of the survey.

Lenz said that a formal discussion will be done in the future with regional planning.

Oberbeck said that the commission may want to look at tree-lined and historic streets. When trees are taken down, the neighborhoods change. Gisselman said that Gray Place and Franklin Street would completely change if trees would be removed. Gisselman said that Franklin Street could be declared an historic landmark. He said that a public hearing would need to be held. Schock said he would support it. Schock said that one day Gray Place will be addressed about paving it, and this commission may need to act. Grimm said that there could be underground utilities that need to be repaired. Oberbeck said that

there are ways to repair and still preserve it. Milwaukee has done a good job with preserving trees. Oberbeck told the commission how they have done that.

Lenz said that Historic Preservation is one chapter of the Comprehensive Plan and another one is Transportation. Some of these items could be included in the Transportation chapter, perhaps to give them more visibility. Oberbeck said that street projects usually destroy the historical integrity of streets and that Europe has maintained that. Schock said that when trees are removed, the street completely changes. Oberbeck said because of the Spring Street reconstruction and removal of trees, there are now traffic issues with speeding. Grimm said that sometimes they narrow the streets, which limits the speeding. Oberbeck said all aspects need to be reviewed in street reconstruction.

Future agenda items and next meeting date(s)

The next meeting is scheduled for August 26, 2015. There weren't any additional items to add to the agenda.

Adjournment

Crooks motioned to adjourn. Tryczak seconded, and the motion carried unanimously 5-0. The meeting adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Gary Gisselman, Chair