

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

Time and Date: Wednesday, February 24, 2016, at 4:00 p.m. in the Birch Room of Wausau City Hall
Members Present: Gisselman (C), Tryczak, Grimm, Gidlund, Burke, Crooks
Others Present: Lenz, Stratz, Priebe, Field, 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.

Approve minutes of the August 26, 2015 and December 2, 2015 meetings.

Grimm motioned to approve the minutes of the August 26, 2015 and December 2, 2015 meetings. Tryczak seconded, and the motion carried unanimously 6-0.

210 South 1st Avenue renovation, Commercial Rehabilitation Program.

Stratz thanked the commission and said that David, with Rosati's Pizza, would like to renovate the property and said this is not a historic building. This is the old Pizza Hut location. David would like to add a bar with outdoor seating area and they are hoping to start within the next few months. Lenz said that the zoning request was passed by Plan Commission and Common Council. Stratz said they are looking to put \$500,000 into the building and they are requesting \$34,000 for rehab and it meets the guidelines for the program.

Tryczak asked where the bar would be located and said it used to be located right where you came in. Stratz and Lenz were not sure about specific interior changes. Burke asked if the elevated area is in line with the building. Lenz said the L-shaped building will be squared off with the new outdoor area.

Tryczak motion to approve the renovations for 210 South 1st Avenue. Gidlund seconded, and the motion carried unanimously 6-0.

Discuss update to City of Wausau Comprehensive Plan.

Lenz said that Paula Priebe from regional planning is available to go over a draft of the cultural resources chapter of the Comprehensive Plan. Priebe said that in October the previous plan was reviewed. The chapter was revised based on the feedback and would like to go over the goals, objectives, and action items.

Grimm said that there is a typo on the 2nd page. The date lists 1974 and should be 1874. The Louis Marchetti house is listed as Grant Street, but has been moved to Grand Avenue. Priebe said the corrections would be made. Crooks said the Nathan Orr house was also moved to Grand Avenue. Gisselman said that both properties are at the same address. Gisselman said that Karl Mathie house is in Mosinee.

Crooks said that the description for the Easthill Residential Historic District boundaries is incorrect. Gisselman added that the comma should be removed. Priebe said that she is having a hard time finding information on the Downtown Historic District and said she would like a brief paragraph. Gisselman said they will do that.

Priebe said that six issues were determined during the October meeting and asked if these are still the issues that should be discussed in the plan. The issues were a need for public education, lack of

enforcement, public space, tax credit program, resource allocation, and lack of current information. Gisselman said he would like to pose the issues in the positive rather than the negative. The commission cannot force a property owner to do certain things. Crooks said the city has the ability as it has the ability to designate, and then the ability to enforce. This was probably a carry-over. Crooks said this isn't a current issue. Priebe said that her notes may have been something else. Crooks said it should be removed. Priebe asked the commission to contact her if anything else comes up later on. Priebe went over the goals.

Lenz said that for letter 'J' the commission is looking to pursue the update and conduct a historical survey. The wording should be changed to update the historical survey. Lenz asked if the rest of the cultural resources chapter still needed to be updated. Priebe said right now there is one goal for the entire chapter. The objectives and actions are more specific.

Gisselman said that there is the Marathon County Historical Society and the State of Wisconsin Preservation Office, which is part of the Wisconsin Historical Society. Priebe asked if both should be included. Gisselman said yes.

Priebe read Objective B of the draft. Gisselman said the walking tours, public programs, and home tours could be identified. Brochures were printed years ago and some copies are located at the Marathon County Historical Society. Priebe said the map shows 3 colors for the different classification. Lenz said the Downtown Historic District can be revisited as an actual district and not just a list of properties. Gisselman said the Charles Manson house is on the national register, but not on the local register. The GIS person should remove the railroad from Short Street to Barker Stewart Island. Crooks asked if the St. Mary's church name be changed or it should remain since that is how it was designated. The commission discussed this and it was determined that it should be how the ordinance reads. Gidlund said the historic name should have more significance.

Gisselman asked when it will need to come back to the commission. Lenz said that a draft of the whole plan will go to Plan Commission with public review, but this chapter can come back to this commission prior to that. Priebe said that not every chapter has a home like this chapter does.

Discuss Historic Logo and Signage.

Gisselman showed the commission the logo and Schock handed out copies of the city newsletter showing the donation form. Schock said that some money has been received. A draft sign indicating the historic district name was shown to the commission members. Crooks asked where the signs would be located and said the logo sign would need to be scaled down. Gisselman said the signage wouldn't get smaller. Schock said the additional signs were for a railroad crossing and they can be adjusted. Lenz said the font sizes could be adjusted and the name of the district could be in a bigger font. Gidlund suggested using different colors for the district.

Schock presented a map with vague sign locations. The commission discussed the different sign locations.

Crooks said if the signs were not high enough off the ground they may be susceptible to vandalism. Schock said DPW will select a safe location. Lenz said that DPW will measure the clearance to make sure they are up in the air. He confirmed that the signs will be one-sided.

The commission discussed which signs had the most priority.

Crooks asked if these are a budgeted item or if donations would be needed. Schock said that donations are needed and some donations have been received. Gisselman asked if the first sign could be put up in May. Schock answered yes and that there could be a ribbon cutting. Gisselman said that a sign could be put up at Athletic Park for public landmarks. Burke said that a sign could also be installed at the fairgrounds.

Burke left the meeting at 4:45 p.m. Gisselman said that an unveiling could be held in May on Franklin Street.

Wausau Friends of Historic Landmarks.

Gisselman said there is a plan to enliven the Wausau Friends of Historic Landmarks. The meeting will start on February 29th at 7:00 p.m. at the Marathon County Historical Society. The first meeting will be a preliminary meeting. This will be governed by the Board of Directors and they would like to generate interest. A new Board of Directors would be voted on in May. This group in the past created white plaques on homes on the hill to designate them as historic.

Gidlund asked if this was a historic group. Gisselman said that it was, but it has fizzled away. Gidlund asked if it would meet once a month. Gisselman said that he was not sure. Crooks said that he was on the commission and it has been 15 years since anything has been done. It is a good idea.

Discuss possible landmark status for 1203 North 3rd Street (Glass Hat).

Gisselman said that he was approached and action could be taken next month. Grimm said that this was the Olympia Hotel. Gidlund said there was a printing press in this building. Gisselman said that this area had working men's taverns and more the history of the building will be looked into more in depth before the next meeting.

Grimm said Cheers has been a bar for more than 100 years and asked if the location being declared a historic location would prevent it from being razed with the Thomas Street project. Crooks said it could get in the way of the plan and the city would need to decide to raze a historic structure. Lenz said that the Thomas Street plans are not finalized but previous plans show the bar needing to be removed. Crooks said the Underwood Chapel had been discussed previously. Gisselman said that the owners had said that they were protective of it, but it is now for sale. Lenz said street plans can be shifted to avoid certain structures, such as the chapel and historic fire station. Gisselman said that the Underwood Chapel could be discussed during the next meeting.

Future agenda items and next meeting date(s)

The next meeting is scheduled for March 30, 2016.

Adjournment

Tryczak motioned to adjourn. Grimm seconded, and the motion carried unanimously 5-0. The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gary Gisselman, Chair