

## **HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION**

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Time and Date: Wednesday, March 30, 2016, at 4:00 p.m. in the Birch Room of Wausau City Hall  
Members Present: Gisselman (C), Grimm, Burke, Crooks, Forer  
Others Present: Lenz

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 February 24, 2016 meeting.**

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Grimm motioned to approve the minutes of the February 24, 2016 meetings. Crooks seconded, and the motion carried unanimously 5-0.

### **Discuss 1102 South 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue (Underwood Chapel).**

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Gisselman said that the Underwood Chapel was placed on the agenda because it is for sale and want to discuss it. Gisselman said he had a conversation with the owner and the potential owner. The church will be in good hands and don't want to complicate the sale. Gisselman said that there was a potential for single family or apartment, but that never happened. It is the possibility that the future use will be a church.

### **Discuss Historic Logo and Signage.**

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A logo is ready to be presented and can be scheduled for May. It could be scheduled for May 25<sup>th</sup> before Memorial Day. A location for the unveiling could also be discussed now or in April. Forer asked if the signage would be attached to a street sign. Lenz said it could be attached to a street sign or light pole. It is easier if there is an existing pole. The commission discussed the best location for the first sign. It was decided that the 800 block of Franklin Street will be reviewed.

Burke asked how many donations were received. Gisselman said there was one. Forer asked how much do the signs cost. Gisselman said it is \$150 for both signs. Crooks asked how many signs are needed. Gisselman answered ten. Crooks asked if a foundation would be willing to help with the cost. Gisselman said that a letter could be sent. Crooks said they all have criteria, but should have a slush fund. Burke said that a picture of the sign with a letter would be helpful.

### **Discuss Historic Preservation Month (May) activities.**

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Gisselman said that there is a tavern tour during May. History Days Wausau will be an event. This year is the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of granite walls at Athletic Park. There may be some type of commemorative ceremony this summer.

Burke asked if it would be better to put the logo signage up in the beginning of May or for the April meeting. Gisselman said that the April meeting could be moved to May 4<sup>th</sup>. The commission agreed.

### **Discuss update to the City of Wausau Comprehensive Plan.**

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Lenz said that he just received edits and hasn't had a chance to go through it. During the last meeting, it was agreed to get a description of the Downtown Historic District and we still need to get that. The chapter is Cultural Resources and are only talking about Historic Preservation, but the chapter could also

discuss other items, like public arts. Lenz said he will confirm this with regional planning.

Gisselman asked if this commission would review the entire chapter. Lenz confirmed. Lenz said he would like everyone to have a chance to review and can be looked at during the next meeting.

#### **Discuss tour of St. James School (McClellan and 2<sup>nd</sup> Streets).**

Gisselman said the city does now own it and asked the commission if they would like to have a final walk-thru. Lenz said the final demolition specs haven't been prepared yet. Crooks said it is worth a walk-thru to see if anything needs to be saved. Lenz said it would be best to do it sooner than later. Crooks asked if a historic salvage company could be contacted. Lenz said that would need to be bid out. Crooks said that the artifacts may be better in the private sector.

The walk-thru will be scheduled for April 27<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Discuss possible Highland Park Historic District.**

Gisselman said that there is a potential for the Highland Park Historic District. Crooks asked if it would be an expansion of the Easthill Residential Historic District or if it would be an entire different historic district. Gisselman answered that it would be separate. The Easthill Residential Historic District has the boundaries of the federal district. The commission discussed the boundaries. Gisselman told the commission what the contributing structures of the district would be. Research for the historic district could be started to assist with the decision making process. Crooks and Grimm agreed.

Burke asked if the property owners would be notified. Gisselman said that a public hearing would be established when voting. The property owners would be invited to an informational hearing prior to the public hearing. Burke said that it would be a great idea and asked if it would be done during preservation month. Gisselman said it would need to get done sometime. The letters, mailings, and location would need to be done. Crooks said that research would need to be done and then vote to proceed. An information meeting and public hearing would then need to happen. Gisselman said it would be a fall event.

#### **Discuss possible West Side Historic District.**

Gisselman said the district would compromise of Stewart Avenue north to Spruce Street and the alley of 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue to the river. Forer said that it would be nice to have this as a historic district. Burke said that the two districts could be done in the same time period. Gisselman said that it would be best to have two separate meetings. Burke said it would be better organized. Gisselman said that the Highland Park Historic District could be done first and then the West Side Historic District. Forer said that this could encourage property owners to take better care of properties.

#### **Discussion and possible action on approving a public hearing to declare 1203 North 3<sup>rd</sup> Street (Glass Hat) a local historic landmark.**

Gisselman said that history of Glass Hat was passed out. It opened in 1880. Grimm said that according to the Marchetti Book, it was the Olympia Hotel. Crooks said that it is worth landmarking.

Crooks motioned to approve a public hearing to declare 1203 North 3<sup>rd</sup> Street (Glass Hat) a local historic landmark. Burke seconded.

Burked asked if the Polack Inn should also be a landmark. Gisselman said that the front façade has been changed. Crooks said the building north of the Polack Inn is falling apart. Burke said it may have been a hotel in the railroad days. Lenz said it would be neat to see if fixed up. Crooks said that it is a nice collection of buildings.

The motion carried unanimously 5-0. The public hearing will be held the Wednesday prior to the Concerts on the Square at 6:00 p.m.

**Discuss Watch List of Endangered Structures.**

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This item will be discussed during a future meeting.

**Future agenda items and next meeting date(s)**

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The next meeting is scheduled for April 27, 2016.

**Adjournment**

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Grimm motioned to adjourn. Forer seconded, and the motion carried unanimously 5-0. The meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Gary Gisselman, Chair