

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

Time and Date: Wednesday, June 29, 2016, at 4:00 p.m. in the Birch Room of Wausau City Hall
Members Present: Gisselman (C), Grimm, Tryczak, Crooks, Oberbeck, Gidlund (arrived at 4:15 p.m.)
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 4:05 p.m. stating that a quorum was present.

Discuss signage for the Grand Theatre.

Lenz said that a photo of the existing signage was passed out prior to the meeting. The proposal is to replace the electronic message center with a new full-color display. Lenz said that staff thought it should be run past the commission, but there isn't anything specific in the zoning ordinance to prevent it. In the Downtown district, signs need to be non-flashing or static for 6 seconds. The sign may be brighter than the old one but will be used similarly to how it is now.

Gisselman asked if the side of the marquis will be the same. Lenz confirmed. Oberbeck said that one issue with the current sign is that it is getting hard to get replacement parts. Lenz said he heard signs like this need to be replaced every ten years or so. Crooks said it would be nice to see how the original signage looked. Gisselman said that the last signage change also came to the commission. Crooks asked if the overhang over the main entrance was always there. Lenz said there was always some sort of marquee but not this exact one. Gisselman said the historic one was different. Lenz said the zoning code banned all marquee signs, except for the Grand Theatre and Fillmore.

Gisselman said the brightness of the sign could overpower the historic nature of the Grand Theatre. Crooks asked if it would be possible to ask for a rendition of what the signage would look like.

Gidlund arrived at 4:15 p.m.

Discussion and possible action on the results of the Highland Park Historic District informational meeting.

Gisselman handed out the proposed map of the district and some pictures that were used at the meeting. The meeting went well. There were about 20 neighbors who were pretty supportive. There didn't appear to be objections to the district. A public hearing could be held in August. Grimm said that the meeting was favorable and Crooks added that nobody spoke against it. There were some that were in favor, some just listened and some had questions.

Lenz said the Frank Lloyd Wright house has since been designated to the National Register, so that is one change to be made to the map. The boundaries were discussed at the meeting. The southeast corner of the district was built in the 1970's and later which is why that corner was left out.

Crooks motioned to approve a public hearing for August 31, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. and that 1009 Hamilton Street, 1111 North 10th Street, 1115 North 10th Street and 1117 North 10th Street should be removed from the district. Tryczak seconded the motion.

Grimm said that 1115 was completely renovated. Lenz said that research wasn't done in the northwest area of the district. The commission discussed 1111 North 10th Street.

Crooks amended his motion to approve the public hearing for August 31, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. and that 1115 North 10th Street, 1117 North 10th Street and 1009 Hamilton Street be removed from the district. Tryczak accepted the change and seconded. The motion carried unanimously 6-0.

Update on Friends of Wausau Historic Landmarks.

Gisselman said that there was an organization called Friends of Wausau Historic Landmarks and this organization will start up again. A meeting will be held on July 9th at 1:00 p.m. at the Marathon County Historical Society. The white plaques will be continued. The July 9th meeting will incorporate the new Board of Directors and do some brainstorming.

Gidlund asked if the organization will be meeting once a month. Gisselman answered that they will probably meet quarterly. The early meetings may be monthly.

Discussion and possible action on historic signs and their potential locations.

Gisselman said that one sign has been posted on Franklin Street. The commission discussed other locations for signage. Schock said that the Franklin Street location was a good test. DPW is working on colors for better contrast. These are relatively minor details.

Discuss Watch List of Endangered Structures.

Oberbeck asked about the Lustron House on Ethel Street. It was a pre-fab home from the 1950's. It came on a truck in pieces and this one is in pretty good shape. Gidlund asked if they were energy efficient. Oberbeck said that they were one of the first modular home companies.

Oberbeck asked if there have been any additional conversations on a near-west side district. Gisselman said that once the Highland Park historic District has had the appropriate meetings, the attention will be turned to the west side.

Tryczak asked about the status of the Underwood Chapel. Gisselman said that it is still for sale. The sellers want to make sure everything is intact.

Gisselman said that there will be a meeting July 12th at 1401 North 2nd Street at 6:45 p.m. for Live It Up Wausau. This is a program to help homeowners take over places and do rehab. Crooks said that there are some interesting homes on 4th Street off of Franklin Street. Gisselman said that could be part of the near-north side neighborhood.

Schock said the architect for Sav-O Supply will arrive on Friday and will start work soon.

Future agenda items and next meeting date(s).

Gisselman said that if there is a need for a July meeting, the members will be notified.

Adjournment

Grimm motioned to adjourn. Gidlund seconded, and the motion carried unanimously 6-0. The meeting adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

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Respectfully Submitted,
Gary Gisselman, Chair