

## **HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION**

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Time and Date: Wednesday, September 28, 2016, at 4:00 p.m. in the Birch Room of Wausau City Hall  
Members Present: Gisselman (C), Tryczak, Crooks, Oberbeck, 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 the minutes of the June 15, 2016 and June 29, 2016 meetings.**

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Crooks motioned to approve the minutes of the June 15, 2016 and June 29, 2016 meetings. Tryczak seconded, and the motion carried unanimously 5-0.

### **Discuss potential date/time change of meetings.**

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Gisselman said that Gidlund has requested that the meeting get moved as she has a conflict with Wednesdays, but she would like to stay on the commission. Gisselman asked the commission if a Thursday meeting would be possible. Crooks said that he has a conflict with Thursdays during the ski season. Tuesdays is generally a council night.

Gisselman said that he will keep it on Wednesdays right now and will get back to Gidlund. Mondays may work and certain Tuesdays may work.

### **Discussion and possible action on the Highland Park District map and rescheduling the public hearing.**

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Gisselman said that a map was created and a public hearing was held. He said a rep from the State of Wisconsin Historic Society was in Wausau and took a lengthy drive around the neighborhood. She was thinking of the potential of including the district on the national register. As with the Andrew Warren Historic District and Easthill Residential Historic District, the commission agreed that the local and national boundaries should match – it is easier in the long run. The map boundaries were redrawn slightly after the State's visit. The new map was passed out at the beginning of the meeting.

Lenz said that the only change to the map is at the northwest corner. He said there was some debate on other changes, but it mostly stayed as it was. He said the thought was to make the district as cohesive as possible, with many homes built around 1950.

Lenz said the informational meeting had already been held at the historical society, but the public hearing was postponed after the State's visit. Gisselman said that the new map would need to be accepted by the commission and a new public hearing date would need to be set. The commission discussed dates.

Tryczak motioned to accept the changes to the map and to set a public hearing for November 30 at 6:00 p.m. Crooks seconded.

Gisselman said that the State had good thoughts about the area and the potential to register the neighborhood.

The motion carried unanimously 5-0.

**Review National Register of Historic Places nomination for Marathon Shoe Company East Side Plant. (1418 North 1<sup>st</sup> Street)**

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Lenz said that the application to the national register for the former Sav-O Supply building is included in the packet. He said the building was formerly the east side plant of the Marathon Shoe Company; there was also a west side plant on 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue, which is now called Pied Piper Plaza. The west side plant was altered a lot, but the east side plant remains similar to what it was in the 1920's and 1930's. Staff recommends approval of the application.

Crooks asked who owns the building right now. Lenz said that the City owns it. Crooks asked if it would help the nomination papers if the commission endorsed it. This was confirmed. Gisselman said that a lot of research has been done on the property which uncovered things that weren't really known before. Forer asked if Marathon Shoe was around longer or employed more people than the bag company. Crooks asked if this was the original use of the building. Gisselman said the first business was the bag company, then the shoe company. Lenz said that at the time, the company single-handedly made shoe manufacturing one of the leading industries in Wausau. It was a significant part of the economy. Crooks said that there aren't many warehouses left. He said he doesn't see any downside in endorsing the process. Oberbeck asked how the history is going to be incorporated in the design of the building. Lenz said that he hasn't heard specific ideas, but they are keeping the outward appearance similar, but improved. Forer asked if there is going to be a name change. Lenz said that they are calling it Atrium Lofts and he is not sure how the shoe history will be incorporated. Forer said that it would be nice to incorporate that history, and she supports the improvement of the building.

Oberbeck said that a condition of being put on the register will probably be having the presence of the shoe company on the site. Gisselman said that MetroPlains will do that, but was unsure of exactly how. He said they take pride in keeping historic elements in their projects.

Crooks motioned to endorse the registration of the Marathon Shoe Company East Side Plan to the National Register of Historic Places. Forer seconded. The motion carried unanimously 5-0.

**Discuss Watch List of Endangered Structures.**

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The commission members discussed warehouses and industrial structures that remain in the city. Gisselman said that they will discuss other warehouses at the next meeting.

Tryczak said the Wausau Pickers building at 801 Genrich Street is an old warehouse building.

Crooks said the St. James School has items that should be salvaged and this should be done routinely when buildings are razed. Oberbeck said that Craig Sulta does a lot of restoration and he may be able to do some of the work. Crooks asked what the plan is for the lot. Oberbeck said that it will be a parking ramp and green space. Crooks said that pieces of the school could be located in the park. Gisselman said that the east side doorway is one of the more unique parts of the school. Forer asked who the parking would be for. Lenz said that it would replace an existing ramp. It will be a surface lot for the time being. The demolition will be coming up soon. Oberbeck said that he is not sure if there is time to do anything. Forer asked who is taking the building down. Lenz said he wasn't sure if the bid had been awarded yet.

Oberbeck said that he heard that the Frontier building has some tile under the exterior panels and brick. Crooks said that he heard that too. Gisselman said that there are photos, but is not sure how the newer

panels were attached. Oberbeck said that he heard it is similar to the CVA materials. Lenz said that a lot of the building is empty and it is dark inside. Gisselman said that he will put this on the agenda for next month.

Gisselman said that the barn located near the Charter building on McIntosh Street is gone. Oldcastle removed the barn for a parking lot. Lenz said that the Dairy Building on the west side remains endangered. Crooks said that an endangered building list should be made.

Forer said that there is an orange-striped building that has a small brick building, on a property that the Marathon County Historical Society now owns and asked what that brick building was for. Gisselman said the striped building was the warehouse and the small brick building was the office. Crooks asked what the present use is. Gisselman said he wasn't sure. Forer said that the 3M brick building is another one that could be added.

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

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The next meeting is scheduled for October 26 in the maple room or board room, which have monitors. The public hearing for the historic district is scheduled for November 30.

Gisselman said that Cheryl Bahr has resigned from the commission and they are looking for a new commission member.

#### **Adjournment**

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Tryczak motioned to adjourn. Oberbeck seconded, and the motion carried unanimously 5-0. The meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Gary Gisselman, Chair