

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

Time and Date: Wednesday, January 25, 2017, at 4:00 p.m. in the Birch Room of Wausau City Hall
Members Present: Gisselman (C), Tryczak, Crooks, Grimm, Burke
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 November 30, 2016 and December 22, 2016 meetings.

Grimm motioned to approve the minutes of the November 30, 2016 and December 22, 2016 meetings. Tryczak seconded, and the motion carried unanimously 5-0.

Discuss 2017 Goals and Objectives for the Commission.

Gisselman said that the city council recently approved the Highland Park Local Historic District and said that the commission may want to do a walking tour of the district. Gisselman said that when he met with the State Historical Society, they ran across information where the Eau Claire Boulevard was a planned community. Gisselman passed out information about this to the commission. The planned community is called Eau Claire Heights. It is a big section and Gisselman suggested designating the street as historic. It would be less of an impact, but would indicate a planned community in the city.

Gisselman said that the commission should look at the gatehouse at Pine Grove Cemetery. There was opposition several years ago but things may be different. Crooks said that that the Egyptian Mausoleum is mentioned in the intensive historic survey. Grimm said that it would be awesome to have both of them listed. The history is so unique. The gatehouse was created by the Ladies Literary Society for a spot where ladies could powder up before coming into Wausau when coming up from areas like Stevens Point. A ladies lounge was on one side and a men's lounge was on the other side. At that time, families would come to the cemetery at least once a week and would picnic and cut the grass. Grimm said that everything is original, as it was, except there is now drywall. The windows are original. It is not up to code or handicap accessible. Crooks asked if there would be opposition. Grimm said that she did not think there would be opposition and would love to see it on the national register. Grimm said that there is some repair work that needs to be done. The commission discussed the work that needed to be done.

Gisselman said that he would like the commission to think about preserving the railroad trestles in the downtown area. One trestle is located over the kayak course onto Clarks Island. Another trestle is located from Barker Stewart Island to Clarks Island. The last trestle is from Barker Stewart Island to the west side of the city and is visible from Eastbay. Burke asked how often the trestles are used by trains. Gisselman answered that they are still used but not often.

Gisselman showed the commission a picture of a depot and said that it had a for-sale sign on it and it has been sold.

Crooks asked about the pedestrian bridge going from the eye clinic area to Barker Stewart Island. Gisselman said he didn't know the history of the bridge. The bridge may be in the Parks Departments hands. Gisselman said that the trestle bridges give character to the city.

Grimm asked if there are any other planned communities that are newer. Gisselman said that the Eau Claire Boulevard community was the first planned community here. Lenz said that a "planned

community” usually refers to a certain period of time where a whole city was planned at once, rather than piece by piece. Grimm said that this would be the first street designation. Burke said that it could be a template for other districts and additions.

Lenz said that the depots are in transition. Crooks asked if the Milwaukee Road Depot is being sold. Lenz said that there is an interested buyer, but the sale hasn't gone through yet. The potential buyer likes the history of the depot and would like to enhance its historic character. Lenz said the Chicago & North Western Depot shouldn't change much as it will be an office use similar to its last use. The good news is, no major changes are planned. Tryczak thought that the Milwaukee Road Depot was landmarked. Burke said he remembered some discussion. Gisselman said that will be reviewed. Gisselman said that Council was pleased to see the nature of the Highland Park District.

Crooks asked if there are any activities planned for historic month. Gisselman said that he would like to develop a procedure for vetting and designating historic properties, which was included with comprehensive plan. The legal procedure is identified but a formalized procedure should be created. Crooks said that more education could be done. Lenz said that a grant was sent to the state to have the intensive survey updated and that could be used for publicity, especially if interesting information is found through the survey. Gisselman said that someone from the State could come and talk about tax credits. Grimm said that a small segment could be included in the city's newsletter. A short article could spark interest. Crooks said that it would be a good venue. The commission discussed past scavenger hunts with the Focus section of the paper. Gisselman said that the commission needs to get better at identifying buildings. Lenz said that photos could be added to the website, along with the info in the walking tour books. Gisselman said that there will be a downtown open house during historic month. Open Wausau will be held May 20. More discussion about awards and certificates can be agendaized for February.

Future agenda items and next meeting date(s).

The next meeting is scheduled for February 22, 2017.

Adjournment

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

Respectfully Submitted,
Gary Gisselman, Chair