

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

Time and Date: Wednesday, April 24, 2019 at 4:00 p.m. in the Birch Room of Wausau City Hall
Members Present: Gary Gisselman (C), Mary Forer, Blake Opal-Wahoske, Linda Tryczak, David Burke
Others Present: Brad 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 not present.

Discussion on possible future landmarks.

Gisselman handed out copies of the survey for members that did not have one and a list of possible landmarks for the year.

Opal-Wahoske asked if it would be for local landmarking. Gisselman confirmed this. Lenz said that City Hall is listed in the ordinance already, but the national register could be pursued.

Gisselman said that the Landmark Building at 221 Scott Street is potentially under new ownership, but could take the rest of the year to acquire it. Opal-Wahoske said that the ownership should take place by the end of the year and they plan to do renovations in 2020. Gisselman said that the lobby is an area of importance. Lenz said that Gorman & Company has done a lot of historic projects in Milwaukee and other places – they also worked on Kannenberg Plaza locally. Gisselman said that this is a historic building and we may want to wait for the new owner – they will need to get permission from us for historic tax credits. The local historic landmark may mean something for them. Lenz said that MetroPlains for their projects hired out a historic consultant – we could talk to Gorman about their plans. Opal-Wahoske asked if the landmark status would secure the exterior. Gisselman confirmed this and said that it would just be for the exterior, but he would like to keep an eye on the lobby.

Gisselman mentioned the Elks Club at 414 Scott Street as a possible local landmark. There will be no action today, just discussion. Gisselman said that a public hearing would be held in the fall. Opal-Wahoske said that this is a unique building and few were built and remain as Elks Lodges. Gisselman said that there was a small addition in 1999.

Gisselman said Salem Church is at 2812-2822 North 6th Street. The consultant really liked this property. St. Peters (also known as) could be approached and put on the agenda next month to start the process. Forer asked if they know the feeling of the church. Gisselman said that there hasn't been a visit yet, but he will in the next month. A public hearing could be held in the fall. This is one of the more notable structures in the new survey. Burke said that there are houses in the neighborhood and asked if the neighborhood should be looked at. Gisselman showed the commission the properties in the area that are listed in the new survey. The hospital was also mentioned, but since it was cut in half, it lost a good part of the structure. The Forest Park District is just two houses and is not enough for a district. Burke suggested they could be landmarked one at a time.

Gisselman noted that the new survey goes over potential historic districts. He said that the Highland Park Historic District was already landmarked. The area of West Campus, 7th Avenue and Garfield could be a district, as could be Grand Avenue and Division Street. Gisselman said that he would like to try later in the year.

Burke asked if the Landmark Building and Elks Club could be put together. Gisselman said that he has hesitation with that due to the new owners. Gisselman said that he would like to proceed with the Elks

and St. Peters.

Discussion and possible action on amending Chapter 2.82 of the Wausau Municipal Code to add the requirement of Certificate of Appropriateness for the demolition in Class II district.

Gisselman said that a demolition only requires a certificate if it is a landmark or Class I Historic District. There aren't any Class I Historic districts. Gisselman gave a background of previous informational meetings. The commission could amend the ordinance to include Class I or Class II historic districts. A Certificate of Appropriateness would be required. It would be a bold step. Lenz said that a certificate is required, but it is advisory only. Burke said that it is not enough. The commission discussed the requirements and would talk more about it at future meetings.

Adjournment.

Tryczak motioned to adjourn. Opal-Wahoske seconded, and the motion carried unanimously 5-0. The meeting adjourned at approximately 4:40 p.m.