

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

Time and Date: Wednesday, October 30, 2019 at 4:00 p.m. in the Birch Room of Wausau City Hall
Members Present: Gary Gisselman (C), Kevin Crooks, Mary Forer, Linda Tryczak, David Oberbeck (arrived at 4:05 p.m.)
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 Gary Gisselman called the meeting to order at approximately 4:00 p.m. stating that a quorum was present.

Approve the minutes from the February 27, 2019, April 24, 2019, May 21, 2019, May 29, 2019, July 31, 2019, August 14, 2019, August 28, 2019, September 16, 2019 and September 25, 2019 meetings.

Crooks motioned to approve the minutes from the February 27, 2019, April 24, 2019, May 21, 2019, May 29, 2019, July 31, 2019, August 14, 2019, August 28, 2019, September 16, 2019 and September 25, 2019 meetings. Tryczak seconded, and the motion carried unanimously 4-0.

Discussion and possible action on landmarking Clarkes Island.

A handout of information for Clarkes Island was passed out before the meeting.

Oberbeck arrived at approximately 4:05 p.m.

Gisselman showed the commission various slides of the history of Clarkes Island. The island has had different features through the years. Gisselman said that this is one of the first settlements in Wausau and started around 1840.

Gisselman asked the commission if they would like to landmark the entire lot. Forer asked if it is city owned. Lenz answered that most is owned by either the city or Wisconsin Public Service, with a private owner of the depot. Crooks asked if the buildings would be enforced if the entire island was landmarked. Gisselman confirmed this and said that the Depot is already landmarked. Crooks said that he would vote to have a public hearing. Gisselman said that if there are any questions, it could be held for additional research. Forer said that the interested parties are the city, Wisconsin Public Service, and the depot. Gisselman said that the city had already received a letter in the past from Wisconsin Public Service and they would rather not have their building landmarked. Crooks said that they are probably consistent on what they want and wondered how the depot owners feel.

Gisselman said that Barker Island is already a site. This island has more history. Oberbeck asked what Wisconsin Public Service is concerned about. Gisselman said that they are concerned about the possible restrictions of razing a building. Crooks said that part of their plan is to demolish the building. Forer asked if this would be a Class I or a Class II. Lenz answered that since it would be a historic site, the Class I would apply. Oberbeck asked if there is zoning that would be regulated on Clarkes Island. Lenz said that the use of the building could be flexible with the zoning but there are other challenges with the building. Crooks added that there are probably a lot of permitted uses. Lenz said that the best way to preserve the building is to get someone to use it, but there are a lot of restrictions through WPS. Forer said that the commission should try to make Clarkes Island a historic site. Tryczak agreed.

Tryczak motioned to approve a public hearing to landmark Clarkes Island. Forer seconded.

Gisselman asked the commission if additional information should be gathered. Lenz said that there was

an application put together in the 1980's for a hydroelectric historic district. Crooks said that the commission has a lot of good information already. The commission discussed the spelling of the island and agreed that should be referred to Clarkes Island.

Oberbeck said that the presentation at the beginning of the meeting is a good way to present the district at the public hearing. Oberbeck asked what the city plans are for the island. Lenz said that the city owns the northern half and does not have specific plans other than to maintain it as a park. Gisselman and Crooks said that Wisconsin Public Service had talked about putting up storyboards or plaques. Forer said that Wisconsin Public Service could be approached to see if their opinion would change if it is known that razing could be allowed. Oberbeck said that it is good to see the designation and asked what the city and Wisconsin Public Service will do.

The motion carried unanimously 5-0.

Discussion and possible action on amending Chapter 2.82 of the Wausau Municipal Code.

This item has been postponed to the next meeting.

Next meeting date and future agenda items for consideration.

The informational meeting for the Eau Claire Heights area will be held on November 11th. The November meeting will be held one week earlier on November 20th. The public hearing for the Eau Claire Heights District will be held on December 4th. The public hearing for the Clarkes Island will be held on January 29th.

Adjournment.

Crooks motioned to adjourn. Tryczak seconded, and the meeting adjourned approximately 4:40 p.m.