

Community Development Department

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MINUTES
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
March 14, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.
Council Chambers

Members Present: Heidi Heinze, Sean Downing, Mark Anderson, Jayne Hoffman, Denton Anderson, Pam Friede
Members Absent: N/A
Staff Present: Brandy Howe
Others Present: Elizabeth Boden

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting convened at 6:05 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Hoffman requested that the minutes be amended regarding the school district letter discussion. Downey made a motion to amend the minutes as modified by Hoffman.

M/Downing, S/Friede – motion carried 6-0

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Heinze updated the HPC that the swinging bridge was accepted on the State's Historical Registry. She noted that one of the nomination criteria for the National Register was ineligible and that the consultant that prepared the nomination application was wording to update the nomination before it is sent to the National Park Service for review and consideration.

Downing informed the HPC that the River Falls Community Foundation is hosting a "Big Idea" contest where they will award a \$10,000 grant to the best big idea they receive. He indicated that he would be submitting as a private citizen the idea to convert the River Falls Academy building into a non-profit, affordable housing, maker space hub that would be a great asset to the community and an alternative to demolition.

CURRENT ITEMS

1. Grant opportunities discussion.

Downing read aloud an article from the River Falls Journal on the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC) grant awarded to the River Falls Theater. He noted that historic projects are eligible for WEDC funding. He added that he'll be working to compile a list of grant sources for the HPC to consider at a future meeting.

Howe updated the HPC on the availability of grants available through the Wisconsin Historical Society for preservation projects. Grants awards range from \$2,000-\$25,000 and eligible projects include national register nominations, historic inventories, and preservation plans. Howe suggested the HPC apply for funding to update the City's Historic Preservation Plan which was prepared in

2003. If the Commission intends to move forward with this idea, a letter of intent is due to the WHS by September 28, 2018. The HPC decided to add this to the April agenda for further discussion.

2. River Falls Journal photo project.

Heinze reported that the River Falls Journal recently published a story on the state's acceptance of the Swinging Bridge as a historic structure. After some discussion, the HPC decided to create a River Falls Theater postcard in light of the renovations that will take place this year.

3. **Capital Improvement Plan projects.** Howe commented that the City is in the process of creating its 5-year capital improvement plan and that it was staff's understanding that the HPC had hopes of creating an interpretive historical walk along the Kinni trail system. The HPC agreed that this was discussed at previous meetings and is something they'd like to pursue. Howe indicated that she would be working with ComDev staff to prepare a line item for the CIP budget. The HPC asked to add this agenda to the April agenda to discuss plaque type and other details.

OLD BUSINESS/UPDATES

Presentation on La Crosse Walking Tours

Heinze and Hoffman shared the following websites that are good examples of integrated historical walking tours with maps, audio, and visual components.

<http://www.hearherelacrosse.org/>

<http://www.footstepsoflacrosse.org/>

Photo Projects

The HPC discussed two photo projects: 1) collecting photos for the Glen Park Pavilion and 2) photos for the Falls Theater postcard. HPC intends to have photos available at the next meeting to review and vote on. It was noted that there are some issues with the Dropbox that was created for the purpose of sharing photos. Staff will work with members of the HPC to troubleshoot the Dropbox issue.

Power Plant

Anderson introduced the idea to the group of potentially utilizing a portion of the power plan to store historical items that are currently in the possession of the City. He will contact Mike Stifter to find out if this is a feasible idea. The HPC also would like to invite Mike to the next meeting on April 11.

AJOURNMENT

Friede made a motion to adjourn at 6:57 p.m.

M/Friede, S/Downing – motion carried 5-0

Respectfully submitted,



Brandy Howe, AICP, Senior Planner