

Community Development Department

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MINUTES
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
May 9, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.
Council Chambers

Members Present: Heidi Heinze, Michael Page, Mark Anderson, Jayne Hoffman, Pam Friede
Members Absent: Denton Anderson
Staff Present: Brandy Howe, Sam Wessel
Others Present: Jamie Benson, Jeff Bjork

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting convened at 6:00 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Friede made a motion to approve the minutes.

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Heinze welcomed new Councilman Michael Page to the Commission.

CURRENT ITEMS

1. River Falls Academy Partnership

Heinze welcomed Jamie Benson, Superintendent of the River Falls School District. Mr. Benson responded that he is looking forward to building a relationship with the HPC to follow through on the District's plan for a respectful exit to the River Falls Academy building. He noted that the District had created a list of what the exit plan would entail including a video of the building and interviews with past alumni as well as removal and storage of artifacts from the building, such as the trophy case and the 1920s vestibule. He noted that storage of items will be a challenge as the District does not have the space. M. Anderson commented that the HPC has been in conversations with Operations Director, Mike Stifter, about use of the power plant to store the City's historic artifacts. It may be an option to also store Academy items at the power plant as well. Heinze asked about the timeline for demolition. Benson responded that nothing is anticipated to occur in 2018, so there are a few months to work through the details. He intends to invite the HPC to a meeting with the construction manager, architect, and District representatives in the next 4-6 weeks. The HPC is also invited to attend the next June School Board meeting to provide an update on the partnership as well as a walkthrough of the building to create an inventory of items to be preserved. Heinze and Friede will attend the School Board meeting in June as HPC representatives. Benson thanked the HPC for their position on the Academy building. M. Anderson suggested that the City coordinate a response for when the building comes down. Heinze suggested that the topic be included in the HPC's annual presentation to the City Council later this year.

2. Grant Opportunities

Page reported that Downing has handed off to him the grant opportunities matrix that he was working on. Howe reported that she attended a conference from preservation commission in Platteville where Joe DeRose was in attendance. She noted that he reiterated the Wisconsin Historical Society's hierarchy for grant funding with surveys being first priority, followed by building or district nominations to the national register, then educational activities. She encouraged the HPC to review the survey and identify any buildings for potential nomination. Heinze suggested that since the swinging bridge is still working its way through the review process of the national register that the HPC hold off on additional nominations at this time.

3. River Falls Theater Postcard

The Commission selected a color image of the Falls Theater for the postcard and asked Howe to find the vendor information so that Heinze could price out color versus black and white postcards.

4. River Walk Pathway Historic Marker Project

The Commission discussed next steps for the project and decided to conduct a walking workshop at the August meeting to identify locations to be marked.

5. River Falls Municipal Utilities Art Project

Howe reported that RFMU Director, Kevin Westhuis, is looking to install art panels on the new power plant that are inspired by RFMU's history. She described utility-inspired murals and a unique art piece that included a large photograph with a three-dimensional sculpture rendition of the sculpture mounted in front of the image. She asked the HPC if there were any images in their personal collections that are related to utilities that might serve as inspiration for an art piece. The HPC asked if Westhuis could be invited to the next meeting to discuss the project in more detail.

OLD BUSINESS/UPDATES

Anderson commented that he found from Reid Wronski, City Engineer, that the size of the Glen Park pavilion panels will be 4'x7'. He brought in photos for the HPC to review, but suggested that instead the HPC take the photos to the Park Board for their input. HPC asked Howe to work with Cindi to coordinate getting this item on their next agenda.

AJOURNMENT

Heinze made a motion to adjourn at 6:48 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,



Brandy Howe, AICP, Senior Planner