

Community Development Department

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MINUTES
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
June 13, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.
Council Chambers

Members Present: Heidi Heinze, Mark Anderson, Denton Anderson, Pam Friede
Members Absent: Jayne Hoffman, Michael Page
Staff Present: Brandy Howe, Sam Wessel
Others Present: Kevin Westhuis, Utility Director, Julie Huebel, Pierce County Historical Association

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting convened at 6:03 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Friede made a motion to approve the minutes.

M/Friede, S/M. Anderson – motion carried 4-0

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Heinze mentioned several comments about the 412 (421) N Main Street historical plaque. She noted that the address is incorrect – it reads 412 when it should be 421 – and that the building owner has requested a new plaque with larger font as the current font is too small to read. Heinze asked staff to double-check the files to find out whether the address mistake was made by the HPC or the manufacturer.

Heinze reported that she, Hoffman, and M. Anderson were present at the last Park Board meeting where M. Anderson shared over 20 images that could be enlarged and used at the new Glen Park pavilion. Heinze said they would narrow down which images would be used by winter.

Heinze reported that the Park and Recreation “Life on the Kinni” tour was canceled as only 3 people had signed up. She noted that the same tour was done for the Garden Club with approximately 15-20 people in attendance; they requested a historic slide show in the future.

CURRENT ITEMS

1. River Falls Municipal Utility art/photo project

Kevin Westhuis reported that the River Falls Municipal Utility (RMFU) is looking to install art at the new power plant that is inspired by RFMU’s history. He mentioned that the River Falls Municipal Utilities is 118 years old this year. He showed images of the substation on Winter Street and noted that the cement panels on the fence and building walls are blank canvasses for art. Westhuis showed an image of a 3-D depiction of a famous photo of construction workers sitting on a steel beam above New York City. The image is intended to get the creativity flowing for possible art projects. He noted that he’s looking for something different than the traditional murals that have been done around town. After some discussion, Westhuis and M. Anderson agree to look at historic

pictures and potentially create a “timeline” with images that depict historical events during the power plant’s history. M. Anderson asked who is contracted out for producing photo panels and signs for the Glen Park Pavilion, wondering what can be done to prevent them from fading and what material is used. Wessel mentioned that UV-resistant ink is common. Friede said that UWRF and the school district are great resources for art ideas. Heinze asked how far back in history these projects should go. Westhuis reminded everyone that the project was still conceptual and those details will be worked out eventually, but the idea is to create some sort of destination. M. Anderson mentioned that the power plant is how River Falls began and is where the Foster family settled. Westhuis mentioned that the location could be useful as a trailhead. M. Anderson described the overlook point across the river from the power plant as a great spot to be highlighted, along with the Foster Cemetery and old fish hatchery.

2. River Falls Academy Partnership

Heinze reminded everyone that a tour of the Academy is scheduled for Thursday, June 14th at 5:30 p.m. She noted that the intent of the tour is to identify items from the building that the HPC would like to be preserved; this list would be approved by the HPC. She noted that conversations have taken place by City Administration that indicate that the power plant is not available for storage of academy items. Friede asked if there should be liability waivers for those going into the academy and collecting items. Heinze said these are good questions to save for Jamie Benson at the time of the walk-through.

Heinze reported that HPC members will attend the next School Board meeting. The plan for that meeting is to introduce the idea of a partnership between the HPC and the school district as the demolition process takes place. She intends to read the letter drafted by the HPC to the School Board and go over the list of identified items to be preserved. M. Anderson said that he and Hoffman have started a list of items they want to save. Heinze commented that the list should be finalized after the walk-through. M. Anderson mentioned that the trophy case should go to the high school. Friede asked if it was possible to save the cornerstone, which M. Anderson said is from 1927 and contains a time capsule. M. Anderson noted that the River Falls stone should be moved to the High School if possible since so many generations have walked under it. Friede said it would be nice if they could save woodwork for people to use in their own homes. Heinze asked if a few small items could be stored at the power plant if they are given to the HPC such as a librarian desk or a coal cart. Friede wonders if someone in the community might come forward with available storage space.

3. River Falls Theater Postcard

Heinze said that they can get 1,000 copies of post cards for about \$200. She also said the photo and narrative need to be credited to the Pierce Co. Historical Society and Ursula Peterson. Friede made a motion to have Heinze edit and reduce the length of the narrative to fit on the postcard.

M/Friede, S/D. Anderson – motion carried 4-0. Friede also made a motion to go with color images.

M/Friede, S/M. Anderson – motion carried 4-0.

OLD BUSINESS/UPDATES

M. Anderson introduced Julie Huebel from the Pierce County Historical Associate and the Commission encouraged her to consider joining the HPC.

AJOURNMENT

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

M/Friede, S/M. Anderson – motion carried 4-0

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sam Wessel". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial "S" and a distinct "W" and "E" at the end.

Sam Wessel, Planner