

Community Development Department

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MINUTES
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
August 8, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.
Council Chambers

Members Present: Heidi Heinze, Mark Anderson, Jayne Hoffman, Michael Page, Pam Friede (arrived at 6:05)
Members Absent: Denton Anderson,
Staff Present: Brandy Howe, Amy Peterson
Others Present: None

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting convened at 6:03 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Page made a motion to approve the minutes.

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Update on River Falls Academy Partnership

Heinze reported that she attended the June School Board meeting where she read aloud to the Board the letter that was prepared by the HPC in response to the District's decision regarding the Academy. She stated that the HPC toured the Academy building with District representatives and their architect to help identify structural items deemed either salvageable or of historic significance. Heinze drafted a letter that includes an itemized list of such items that will be provided to Jamie Benson, Superintendent. After reviewing the draft letter, it was suggested that an item be added to the list of salvageable materials – solid wood classroom doors. Heinze will amend the letter and mail to Mr. Benson.

2. HPC Retreat

Peterson reported that this retreat is being scheduled to provide an opportunity for new staff and Commissioners to get to know one another and to participate in a training opportunity. Joe DeRose from the Wisconsin Historical Society will be in attendance to provide a presentation. There was some discussion about changing the date from October 6th to early November. Howe will send out a Doodle poll and work to schedule the event.

3. Update on River Falls City Building and Historic Artifact Tour

Heinze reported that the HPC went on a tour with Mike Stifter, Operations Director, to take a look at the historic items that the City has in its possession. She prepared an inventory list and thank you letter similar to the one drafted for the School District. Heinze noted that she specifically did not

include any suggestions or direction on what should be done with the historic items as it is not an HPC decision. Hoffman suggested a revision to add the word “boards” after wall in the list of items storage at cold storage. Hoffman and Page remarked that they took photos of the tour that could be shared with staff and saved in a file with the inventory list. Howe will create such a file.

4. Update on River Falls Municipal Utility Public Art Project

Hoffman and M. Anderson reported they met with Mike Stifter and Kevin Westhuis, Utilities Director to share photographs that might be used as inspiration for a public art project at the new substation. At that meeting the HPC learned that the City’s Arts Committee would be the organization responsible for heading up the project. If the Arts Committee needs additional information from the HPC, they will make a request.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Update on River Falls Theater postcard

Heinze reported that all 750 postcards that were printed in advance of River Falls Days were handed out during the parade. She asked the Commission if additional postcards should be printed to hand out at future City events, such as Bacon Bash, Art on the Kinni, etc. Page made a motion to order 750 additional postcards.

M/Page; S/Friede. Motion passed 5-0.

2. Riverwalk Pathway Historic Market Project

Heinze reminded the group that this project would provide interpretive signage along the Kinni River paths that would be different than the plaques they have done in the past. She noted that she read through the book on interpretive signage that staff suggested they peruse. The book has a lot of good examples of signage; she encouraged everyone to take a turn with the book to get ideas for the project. It was noted that this project is more long term than previously thought and a spring walking tour to get a sense of priority sites would be more appropriate than trying to do it yet this fall. Peterson suggested that this might be a good project to work on with the Park Board.

The Commission also discussed whether or not to remake the plaque for Prairie Mill that was prepared with the incorrect address in light of this potential signage project. It was agreed that the plaque be remade with larger font and the correct address. It will be placed on the building. Future interpretive signage for the Prairie Mill could be placed on the bridge facing the river/historic structure. Friede made a motion to reorder the plaque with larger font, the correct address, and provide a proof to the property owner to sign off on to ensure it is accurate.

M/Friede; S/Page. Motion passed 5-0.

3. Swinging Bridge National Register of Historic Places Designation

Heinze reported that the Commission must now determine how to recognize the Swinging Bridge now that it has been registered on the State and National Registers of Historic Places. The Commission discussed how other sites have been given simple plaques in the past. Page volunteered to prepare a mock-up plaque with the National Register information and a brief history

of the swinging bridge with an image. Friede made a motion to move forward with a new plaque for the Swinging Bridge with review of the mock-up at the next meeting.

Heinze also reported that Judy Baker with Tuesday Club asked her to provide a presentation on the Swinging Bridge to their organization in February. Heinze requested assistance in preparing a presentation that could be used for this purpose as well as at other organizations as needed. A subcommittee could be formed to work on the presentation.

M/Friede; S/Page. Motion passed 5-0.

4. Wisconsin Historical Society – 2018 History Conference

The Commission discussed the 2018 conference. Heinze, Hoffman, and Friede all commented on how beneficial it is to attend as a Commissioner and as teachers. All Commissioners were interested in attending; however, the budget does not allow for all six HPC members to attend. Hoffman and Friede will attend as well as either Heinze or Anderson, dependent on schedules and funding availability.

CALENDAR

Next Historic Preservation Commission meeting September 12, 2018

AJOURNMENT

Heinze made a motion to adjourn at 7:05 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,



Brandy Howe, Senior Planner