

Community Development Department

222 Lewis Street
River Falls, WI 54022
715.425.0900
www.rfcity.org



AGENDA HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION March 13, 2019 at 6:00 pm Council Chambers

Action may be taken on any of the following items.

CALL HPC MEETING TO ORDER

APPROVAL OF AGENDA/MINUTES

Minutes of the February 13, 2019 meeting

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Power Plant – Local Landmark Update
2. Chapter 1-3 of Preservation Plan
3. Veteran’s Park Plaque Update
4. NPS Grant Opportunity for Swinging Bridge Restoration Update
5. Plaque for The Walker Farm
6. Local Landmark/National Register Outreach

CALENDAR

Next Historic Preservation Commission meeting April 10, 2019

ADJOURNMENT

***Council members may be in attendance for informational purposes only.
No official Council action will be taken.***

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MINUTES
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
FEBRUARY 13, 2019 at 6:00 p.m.
Council Chambers

HPC Members Present: Heidi Heinze, Mark Anderson, Jayne Hoffman, Denton Anderson, Michael Page, Jeff Bjork, Pam Friede

HPC Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Brandy Howe, Sam Wessel

Others Present: Sean Downing

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting convened at 6:00 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JANUARY 9, 2019

Bjork moved to amend the minutes to correct an error in the adjournment motion.

M/Bjork, S/Friede – motion carried 7-0

PUBLIC COMMENTS

M. Anderson reported that he will be hosting a Third Thursday discussion group at the Library on February 21st. The topic for February will be *Views from the Mound*. Heinze reported that she will be presenting to the Garden Club on March 4th and to Tuesday Club on February 26th.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Power Plant – Local Landmark

Heinze prepared a draft letter to Scot Simpson regarding the proposed landmark designation for the Power Plant/site. The letter was provided in hard copy to the HPC at the meeting. After some discussion, it was decided that the Commissioners would review the letter on their own time and provide comments to Heinze via email. They will discuss changes and possibly approve the letter at the March meeting.

2. Chapter 3 of the Preservation Plan

Staff prepared draft revisions to Chapter 3 of the Preservation Plan. The HPC reviewed the proposed changes and suggested some additional revisions. Howe will revise the documents and provide a clean (non-track changes) version at the March meeting.

3. Veteran's Park Plaque

Heinze reported that she and Hoffman visited the UWRF Archives to do some research on the history of Veteran's Park. It was noted that they have not been able to find documentation that supports the idea that the park was a gathering place to review the list of war casualties. There was some discussion

about the focus of the plaque being changed to the park as a place for celebration. Heinze and Hoffman will keep digging into the history to see what else the might find.

4. NPS Grant Opportunity for Swinging Bridge Restoration

Heinze reported that a grant is available for CLG communities with National Register property projects. She suggested that the Commission consider apply for a grant to clean-up the Swinging Bridge. It is now eligible since being placed on the National Register last July and with the new plaque on the bridge, it is evident that it could use some TLC. Howe will talk to Mike Stifter to see if this is an appropriate project to take on. Page will reach out to architects to find out what the scope/cost of such a project might be. The grant deadline is April 1, 2019.

CALENDAR

Next meeting March 13, 2019.

AJOURNMENT

Friede made a motion to adjourn at 7:10 p.m.

M/Friede, S/Page – motion carried 7-0

Respectfully submitted,



Brandy Howe, Senior Planner

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HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION MARCH 13, 2019 STAFF REPORT

AGENDA DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Power Plant – Local Landmark

At the January meeting, Heinze agreed to draft a letter to City Administrator, Scot Simpson, regarding the possible landmark nomination for the power plant. A draft of this letter was distributed to the HPC at the February meeting. Commissioners were asked to review the draft letter and bring suggested changes/updates to the March meeting.

2. Chapters of Preservation Plan

Staff reformatted the 2003 Preservation Plan with a more modern font and feel. Staff also made some editorial changes to shorten the overall length of the document, added some sections on historic properties that weren't present before (e.g. Foster Cemetery, Lime Kilns, etc.), and generally reorganized the document for improved flow. These changes go above and beyond what had been discussed at the February meeting; however, the main policy guidelines, values, and mission remain intact. Please note that there is a section on the power plant that remains to be written. Please review the proposed changes and bring ideas for additional changes, if necessary.

3. Veteran's Park plaque

In February, members of the HPC visited the UWRF Archives to research the history of Veteran's Park. They had difficulty finding documentation to support the idea that the park was a gathering place to review the list of war casualties. Heinze and Hoffman volunteered to keep digging into the history to see what else they might find.

4. NPS Grant Opportunity for Swinging Bridge Restoration/Clean-up

The Historic Revitalization Subgrant Program (HRSP) is a new Historic Preservation Fund grant program that supports the rehabilitation of historic properties and foster economic development of rural communities. This program funds physical preservation projects for historic sites, including architectural and engineering services through subgrants to communities. The application deadline is now **April 1, 2019**. Commissioner Page met with staff on March 6th to discuss the possibility of applying for a Swinging Bridge maintenance project.

5. Plaque for The Walker Farm

Heinze received a request from Carol Anderson to have a plaque created that marks her home as the Walker Farm. Ms. Anderson provided the following narrative.

The Walker Farm

The Walker house was built in 1880 by Thomas Walker for himself and his wife, Eliza. The 120-acre farm included much of the current Hoffman Park and the (Walker) Mound.

The Mound was quarried for 50 years beginning in 1872. Many of the older homes and buildings in River Falls were built of this stone including the foundation of South Hall on the university campus. Even though the quarry was the Walkers' primary interest, they also farmed the rest of the land. Timothy hay and oats were planted for the many horses working the quarry. They also had a few dairy cows and chickens. After Tom died his son, William, planted cabbages, potatoes and cucumbers.

The Walker family owned the house and current ½ acre of property on the corner of 4th and Division Street until 2004.

6. National Register Info Packet and Letter

There was some discussion at the January about National Register designation of historic districts and individual buildings. It was decided that the Commission would draft a letter of introduction and info package to be mailed to owners of property that are eligible for listing on the National Register. HPC to provide an update on this project, if any.