

Community Development Department

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MINUTES HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION MAY 12, 2021 at 6:00 pm GLEN PARK PAVILION

HPC Members Present: Heidi Heinze, Jayne Hoffman, Mark Anderson, Pam Friede, Julie Huebel
HPC Members Absent: Denton Anderson, Ben Plunkett
Staff Present: Brandy Howe
Others Present: None

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting convened at 6:00 p.m.

HPC MEMBER VOLUNTEER HOUR REPORT

1 hour of native American research – Hoffman

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF APRIL 14, 2021

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Heinze welcomed Julie Huebel to the Commissioner.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Power Plant

M. Anderson provided some background. He reminded the Commission that in 2018, at the November HPC retreat, Joe DeRose from WHS assisted the HPC in creating an annual work plan. Mr. DeRose informed the Commission that the HPC should lead by example by landmarking city-owned property as a good way to demonstrate the value of historic landmarks. M. Anderson stated that he believed that this remark was the re-jumpstart of the power plant landmarking project. Hoffman brought up an article titled [Preserving Wisconsin's Civic Legacy](#) by the National Trust for Historic Preservation. She noted there are many reasons cited in the article on why communities should landmark civic buildings.

M. Anderson reported that later on (sometime after the Nov. 2018 retreat) he and Heinze met with Scot Simpson (City Administrator), Amy Peterson (then Development Services Director), and Brandy Howe (then Senior Planner) to discuss the power plant. Going into that meeting, M. Anderson thought that the HPC should try to landmark as much of the site/property as possible (i.e. the building, the power plant site, as well as the land on the opposite side of the river). During that meeting it was discussed that rather than go for landmarking everything, an MOU could be an

alternative. The HPC then had Howe prepare a draft MOU that was approved by the HPC in April 2021. There was some discussion on amending the MOU to ensure that the HPC is included in development discussion related to the power plant from the beginning, potentially even discussions on the potential reuse of the building. They could also be a resource to developers to identify the parts of the building that are valuable and those that are not.

After much discussion during this meeting, the HPC agreed that their primary concern is making sure that they are at the table before any decisions or direction is taken in relation to the power plant that would impact its historic integrity. They also raised the concern about City Council attitude changing in the future about the power plant and the MOU would provide protection from that. Ideally the HPC would like to continue to pursue an MOU as a pre-cursor to landmarking the power plan, not an alternative.

In addition, there was some discussion about the potential for a National Register nomination for the power plant and that an intern had started some of that work in 2014 but was asked to put that project on hold.

2. The Glen interpretive sign

The HPC walked out to the site of the existing sign and evaluated possible locations for the new sign. The preferred option is the concrete paved area next to the light pole adjacent to the sidewalk between the pool and the swinging bridge. The HPC will be in communication with Public Works to determine the feasibility of this location.

3. WHS CLG grant

Heinze explained the purpose of the WHS CLG grant and that new/updated guidelines would be posted in May. It was decided that the HPC would wait for the guidelines to determine eligibility for National Register project. It was decided that because two years have gone by since the project was last actively discussed, they HPC should mail out reminder letters to those property owners that expressed interest in having their homes placed on the National Register and those that might be eligible.

CALENDAR

Next Historic Preservation Commission meeting June 9, 2021.

ADJOURNMENT

Heinze called for adjournment at approximately 7:15.