

MINUTES
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
Monday, September 8, 2014
City Hall, Room 210
4:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairperson Ald. Mark Steuer, Vice Chairperson Jacqueline Frank, Roger Retzlaff, Dave Boyce, Chris Naumann

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Susan Ley, Jeanine Mead

ALSO PRESENT: Ald. Guy Zima, Ald. David Nennig, Lynn Austin, Muriel Austin, Steve Sengstock

The meeting was called to order by Ald. Steuer at 4:00 p.m.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND AGENDA

- a. Approve August 11, 2014 Minutes

Motion made by Roger Retzlaff to approve the August 11, 2014 Minutes, seconded by Dave Boyce. Four in favor, one abstention (Naumann). Motion carried.

- b. Modify and adopt agenda

Roger Retzlaff asked to have Item 5(a) removed.

Chris Naumann would like to add an announcement under Item 7 regarding the State Historic Preservation Conference.

Motion made and seconded to approve the modified agenda. All in favor. Motion carried.

2. DESIGN REVIEWS: None.

3. REPORTS

- a. Presentation by Lynn Austin of LaBaye.org

Lynn Austin introduced her daughter, Muriel Austin. They are working together on an area history research project.

Lynn began the project about eight years ago and has worked with Dr. Robert Hall from the University of Illinois in Chicago. He has a PhD in anthropology and is related to the Menominee Indians. She has also worked with Cathy Williquette (Brown County Register

of Deeds); Frieda Burgan (a Menominee Tribe Elder); Alice Skenandore (Wise Women Gathering Place) and individuals from the University of Wisconsin.

One goal of the committee was to fulfill Act 31, which required all Wisconsin schools to teach three units of Indian history between Kindergarten and 12th grade. Schools in Wisconsin were in violation of this law, not because they were unwilling, but because they did not have pertinent information to teach. The idea was to design a website with this information which would be totally free for public educators to use. A long term goal of the committee is to develop a National Indian and Metis Museum. Loretta Metoxen, an Oneida Historian, indicated that 60% of all Americans have some Metis heritage, but most cannot trace it. There is thought about having an Indian and Metis Festival similar to what Milwaukee does with "Indian Summer."

Lynn gave a visual presentation of the LaBaye.org website. She has several funding partners, including Brown County. The project is ongoing and future research will include obtaining information about several specific Indian families. Lynn obtained copies of surveyor maps from the archives of the Chicago Northwestern Railroad and these are now on the website.

Lynn stated: "Green Bay has no idea how famous we are. Many Frenchmen who have Indian lives are from French nobility. The Canadians write about them, but we don't know who these people are!"

Jacqueline Frank asked if the information on the website has a credit attached to it. Lynn stated "no," because they now own it. Also, many of the images, they made themselves. Labaye.org would be the appropriate cite listing. Most copyright information goes back to 1927.

The Green Bay Area School District has been very interested in the website and the woman in charge of curriculum sent an email to all teachers regarding its availability.

Ald. Steuer asked how many nations lived on the property. Lynn indicated she can document the Hochunks, Fox and Sauk, Potawatomi and Menominee tribes. When the first Jesuits came to the area, Father Allouez wrote that a mixed village existed.

In the year 1900, Professor Albert Jenks did a study on the economics of wild rice. He also did a population study regarding the 200 years prior to Americans coming to the area. This was called the "Wild Rice District." We are part of this area and it goes along the Bay of Green Bay up to Lake Superior. Professor Jenks' study showed that at any given time there were 20,000 Indians living in the Wild Rice District. They were able to sustain this

large population because of the wild rice. The Wild Rice District's population alone equaled that of the surrounding five states. We were one of the highest populated areas in the Northwest Territories.

4. **CORRESPONDENCE:** None.

5. **CONTINUING BUSINESS**

- a. 2014 Awards – recap and discussion – deleted from agenda.
- b. Archeological value at Fort Howard site on Larsen Green
 - i. Discussion
 - ii. Resolution with respect to advising action by Common Council

Roger stated that the HPC needs a substantive recommendation on the archeological value of the Fort Howard site. This report should be something the city will find valuable.

Chris Naumann feels there is no dispute over the historic significance the Larsen Green site has played in the history of Green Bay. Some areas may actually be even more significant. On Broadway has encouraged people to study the Larsen Green site for development.

Chris feels the timing of this discussion is questionable because the ownership of this site is something still being discussed. Ald. Steuer feels this historical research and discussion is productive, as it presents a good opportunity to incorporate this information into whatever may happen in the future.

Jacqueline Frank believes new technology which is now available will help define the areas to dig. Lynn then indicated that Kurt Sampson, head of the Wisconsin Archeology Society, along with an individual from Milwaukee, would be willing to come up to look at the site and submit a report for the cost of \$500.00. People outside the community realize the importance of this project.

Jacqueline feels comparing the maps will discover some important history.

Rogers feels in order to make an effective decision, research needs to be done and concepts developed. Perhaps there is a grant available to have a reputable archeological department from some university do a study.

Ald. Steuer indicated some of this information could be obtained from the Chicago Northwestern archives.

Motion made and seconded to open the floor for public discussion.

Ald. Guy Zima is present at this meeting. He commends Lynn and her daughter for the work they are doing. Guy helped Lynn obtain a Postal Management grant about two years ago. This year Guy would like Lynn to work continually. He feels everyone, except people in our own community, seems to be interested in the work she is doing. There is a huge gap in the recorded history of our area.

Guy stated Lynn could use \$20,000 for next year. This would include a "huge" salary for Lynn and her daughter of \$6,500.00. Guy would like the HPC to make a recommendation to the City Council for help in obtaining this. Guy feels Lynn and her daughter are a gift from God for their labor of love and we should support their efforts. This is a site for anyone to use, and it's free of charge.

Steve Sengstock, the new Executive Officer for Heritage Hill State Park, is present at this meeting. He stated he came into this role with a spirit of cooperation and will work closely with the other museums in the area and play a more extensive role in some of these activities.

Lynn Austin stated she received a letter of support from Mayor Schmitt.

Ald. Steuer would like the historical community to be opened minded regarding the research being done now and of that in the future.

The Committee Members discussed increasing the line item budget for their committee from \$2,000.00 to \$5,000.00. Ald. Zima stated he is fully supportive. He would also like the Committee to make an additional recommendation for a one time grant to help Lynn Austin continue her research.

Ald. Steuer stated he appreciates Ald. Zima's suggestion. However, the HPC is strictly an advisory commission. They are still pushing to obtain Certified Local Government status and a stronger ordinance.

Motion made by Chris Naumann to request a line item budget of \$5,000.00 for the HPC for next year, seconded by Jacqueline Frank. All in favor. Motion carried.

Ald. Zima asked that they put this into perspective. Not only has the state provided support, but even people who don't live in Brown County are being supportive. The School District is excited about this project. Ald. Zima feels \$10,000.00 is not too much to ask.

Ald. Steuer agrees the City should help out, it's just a matter of deciding the amount.

Ald. Zima feels \$10,000.00 should be the minimum. Anything less would show they do not have a commitment. Ald. Zima asked the Committee to "stop thinking small and be proud of what they do."

Motion made by Ald. Steuer that the HPC recommend \$10,000 be a line item in their budget to be used for the LaBaye.org website to continue their work and do research on the Fort Howard site as it was affected by our European and pre-European inhabitants. Motion seconded by Dave Boyce.

Jacqueline Frank stated she would like to have the citations put in. This would make it a more valuable resource.

Lynn Austin said she could do that if the City would contribute another \$30,000. She has to pay the website designer for everything they do, and the current agreement with Brown County is that they do not add anything to the documents.

Lynn provided a letter from the Wisconsin Humanities Council which states they are considered an archive. In that case, Jacqueline indicated she will not amend the original motion.

Four in favor, one abstention (J. Frank). Motion carried.

6. **NEW BUSINESS**

a. Review August building activity report

Chris Naumann reported that 519 N. Broadway is a rental property and the porch is being rebuilt. 320 N. Broadway is regarding signage for the Titledown project.

Roger Retzlaff reported that 806 S. Quincy is for new windows and 434 S. Monroe and 519-523 Chicago Street are being torn down. Ald. Steuer stated he will check on getting raze order information sooner. 115 S. Jefferson is interior work. 101 S. Washington Street is the Meyer Theater building.

Ald. Steuer asked about the Daily Planet building. Roger indicated he has discussed this in the past as he feels the proposed design is contrary to the historical nature of the building. He would be interested to know if they are pursuing tax credits. Chris Naumann stated they are. Ald. Steuer stated he will follow up on this. Chris Naumann stated a state architect is involved and advised caution on the HPC's part. Roger stated that the HPC wanted to have the Daily Plant building listed locally, but the owner wasn't interested.

Regarding the current intensive survey, Ald. Steuer will look at the possibility of having money put in the city budget to have a new survey done.

A motion to receive and place on file the August building report was made by Roger Retzlaff, with the notation that the property at 101 S. Washington Street is being renovated, to our understanding, with design characteristics that could compromise its historic character. Motion seconded by Jacqueline Frank. All in favor. Motion carried.

c. Review City Raze/Repair Orders and Demolitions

Ald. Steuer will contact Cheryl Renier-Wigg to get information regarding 829 Cherry Street and 519 12th Avenue.

7. OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS AND NEWS

Chris Naumann stated the Wisconsin Historic Society is having its Eighth Annual Historic Preservation Conference. He will be attending for On Broadway and is willing to represent the HPC and share any information he receives. It will be at the Osthoff Resort in Elkhart Lake on October 24-25. It's a good conference and Chris encouraged others to attend. It's also a good networking tool.

Motion made by Ald. Steuer to allow someone from the HPC to attend this conference. Motion seconded by Jacqueline Frank. All in favor. Motion carried.

Dave Boyce suggested promoting the HPC awards by distributing hand outs. He will follow up with the appropriate departments for input.

Ald. Steuer stated that Cheryl Renier-Wigg provided him with a copy of General Ordinance 15-14, which was adopted August 19, 2014. This deals with covered porches for historic homes.

8. NEXT MEETING DATE: October 13, 2014 at 4:00 p.m.

9. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn was made by Dave Boyce, seconded by Chris Naumann. All in favor. Motion carried.