

**MINUTES**  
**MAYOR'S BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE**  
**January 5, 2016**  
**Aging & Disability Resource Center, 300 Adams Street**  
**4:00 PM**

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Members Present: Paul Hartman, Lynn Austin, Jim O'Rourke, Muriel Austin

Chairman Paul Hartman called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM.

Discussion began with the Larsen Green property, which was on the agenda of the City Council meeting in December. Jim Sanderson spoke and presented a handout at the meeting. Lynn Austin also spoke and presented a handout. She showed the Council members a hundred-year-old silver souvenir spoon that displays the Fort Howard stockade, Tank Cottage, the lighthouse on Long Tail Point, and the bayfly; the handle is engraved with an American Indian and ears of corn. She pointed out that, of the first four, only the bayfly still remains within the city; the other Green Bay assets were displaced or destroyed as a result of poor stewardship, but the City still has an opportunity to save the historic site on the Larsen Green property. The Council went into closed session to reach their decision: Brent Weycker (president of Titledown Brewing Co.) will be required to donate half an acre or more of the purchased property for historic purposes. He agreed willingly, and mentioned to Lynn Austin that he is unable to use a certain area of the property anyway, due to the presence of electrical lines.

The Historic Preservation Commission voted to leave the Maple Street building (believed to be the Fort Howard surgeon's quarters) where it currently stands. Beautification Committee members suggested that if the City is unable to invest to have a building on the fort site, creating a stone outline of the original fort perimeter (similar to Pittsburgh's Point State Park and the Fort Dearborn site in Chicago) would not cost a great deal of money. However, Lynn Austin observed that the City seems to have difficulty undertaking even inexpensive projects in a timely manner.

Lynn mentioned she had spoken to Representative David Steffen regarding the lack of bipartisan cooperation between Republican and Democrat state officials pertaining to the Senate Committee hearing for Senate Bill 62 (an attempt to remove the legal penalties for making digital copies of historic vital records). Consequently, Senator Vukmir's committee did not regard the bill as important enough to warrant a public hearing. However, after Lynn had spoken with Representative Steffen, she was informed that a hearing had been scheduled for January 6.

Lynn said she had given a presentation at the November 2015 meeting of the Great Lakes Intertribal Council. This presentation included a demonstration of the Vital Records law, using paper copies of O-ki-wa's birth record (the oldest birth record in Wisconsin) and a redacted digital example. She told GLITC that most of the opposition she'd encountered originated from

government-funded organizations, such as the Wisconsin Historical Society. She said that when the Labaye Project was first beginning, U.S. Senator Herb Kohl's office had told Jim Draeger (Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer at the Wisconsin Historical Society) to help the Labaye Project find a government grant, but he never did. The Brown County Register of Deeds and the Brown County Planning Department seemed willing to help, but the Brown County Library and the Neville Museum did not. She also mentioned that the Labaye Project's 2015 donation from the City of Green Bay was initially taken from them by the Historic Preservation Commission, which is associated with other organizations opposed to the project, but the City Council later voted to provide from their contingency funds in order to restore the donation.

The Great Lakes Intertribal Council wrote a letter supporting Senate Bill 62 without the added amendment and in support of the Labaye Website Project. Lynn Austin scheduled an appointment to speak with WI Senator Rob Cowles before the January 6 meeting of the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services.

Members inquired whether the old church records are actually considered official records. Lynn replied that any sort of record becomes an official record if the government considers it as such.

Jim O'Rourke addressed the ongoing project of street-end parks. All the streets ending at a river with access to the water are eligible for street-end parks—Spring, Porlier, and Law Streets already have street-end parks. However, there are still many East River parks to be done. The Fox Wisconsin Heritage Parkway adopted the military system of measurement to put river mileage signs on street-ends. The signs cost only \$30 plus installation fees. There is also a marker for the new kayak launch in Bellevue.

Jim O'Rourke said the property at the end of Cedar Street is neglected but can be cleaned up as a community project. The East River is a tributary of the Fox River, and its important sites should be identified; he also pointed out that if the public builds something, they care more about it. Mark Freberg, the Green Bay City forester, could help with the project since the City has to plant trees anyway. Lynn Austin suggested Jeff DuMez might be willing to help with measuring distances, as well.

Jim O'Rourke said that in this area, townships were traditionally 36 square miles (6 x 6 miles). Green Bay, Allouez, Ashwaubenon, and Howard split off from the Green Bay township after 1836. Jim said that it would be very useful to be able to use the historical real estate and census records in order to research the original family farms and properties.

Lynn Austin said Dave Charles, a local beekeeping teacher, had said he suggested planting clover on City property that is difficult to mow, such as the steep hill south of Mason Street by the Ashland viaduct, but that Mayor Schmitt negated it, because he was afraid of possible lawsuits if people were stung. However, Lynn supported having a beekeeping program or presentation as an addition to Brown County's 200th Anniversary year's events. She suggested inviting Dave to speak before the Beautification Committee at next month's meeting and

asking him if he would be involved with that aspect of the Anniversary celebration. Committee members agreed.

Discussion continued to the proposed maple sugar tapping project / Brown County Anniversary pancake breakfast. Jim O'Rourke said that we should start the maple sugar tapping before 2018. Maple sugar tapping is a fairly substantial undertaking: maple sugar pails generally have to be emptied daily, and the sugar water boiled down in large steel cauldrons. Paul Hartman said we could start tapping the Baird Creek trees this winter, since maple sugar tapping generally takes place in mid-March. There are 40-50 suitable maple trees along Baird Creek by Christa McAuliffe Park. Since Barkhausen does a similar maple sugar tapping program, this would be an opportunity to coordinate the east and west sides of the area. Paul said that the Baird Creek meeting would take place later in the month and he would bring the subject up.

Members also suggested creating small collectibles to commemorate the 200th Anniversary.

The meeting concluded at 5:30 PM. Next month's meeting is scheduled for February 2.

Respectfully submitted,

Muriel Austin