Historic Preservation Commission

335 South Broadway
De Pere, WI 54115
http://www.de-pere.org

Regular Meeting

Final Minutes

Monday, November 17, 2014 6:00 PM De Pere City Hall Council Chambers

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Commissioner Mary Jane Herber

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Scott Crevier	Alderperson	Present	
Mike Fleck	Commissioner	Present	
Gene Hackbarth	Commissioner	Present	
Mary Jane Herber	Commissioner	Present	
Brian Netzel	Commissioner	Excused	
Sue Sands	Commissioner	Present	
Adam Turriff	Commissioner	Present	

Also present: City Planning Director Ken Pabich and members of the public.

2. Approval of the minutes of the October 20, 2014 meeting.

Mary Jane Herber commended staff member Carey Danen for her work completing this month's agenda in a timely manner.

RESULT:	**ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]**
MOVER:	Mike Fleck, Commissioner
SECONDER:	Adam Turriff, Commissioner
AYES:	Crevier, Fleck, Hackbarth, Herber, Sands, Turriff
EXCUSED:	Brian Netzel

3. A Public Hearing to act on the local historic site designation for the White Pillars Museum and the Polo-Resto Service Station.

Gene Hackbarth motioned, seconded by Sue Sands, to open the public hearing. Upon vote, motion carried unanimously. Mary Jane Herber reviewed the request for local landmark status for White Pillars and the Polo-Resto, which are both owned by the De Pere Historical Society.

Marlin Huppert spoke in favor of granting the designation. He stated that he is a volunteer at the Polo-Resto, and is amazed at how many people stop to inquire about the building.

Carolyn Jahns spoke in support of local landmark status. She noted that the Polo-Resto is an important gateway entrance to Voyageur Park.

Mike Fleck conducts a history program for local elementary students, and he stated that both children and adults are very interested in how an old time gas station worked. He also shared historical information about White Pillars, built in 1836. Originally used as a land office for the Fox River Hydraulic Company, it is one of the oldest buildings in the county.

Ken Pabich reported that city staff have been notified as required by the designation process. The department of Public Works inquired what impact the designation would have on the alley and yard for future public improvements. There were no comments

from city staff relative to the Polo Resto. If granted, the local landmark designation will be recorded on the property deed. The property must be maintained in such a way as to preserve its original character, and cannot be changed drastically. Any work requiring a permit would now have to come before this body to obtain a certificate of appropriateness. The property owner has agreed to abide by these modification guidelines. Local landmark designation helps to maintain the downtown as a tourist destination.

Gene Hackbarth motioned, seconded by Mike Fleck, to close the public hearing. Upon vote, motion carried unanimously.

a. Notice of Public Hearing.

b. Public Hearing.

c. Review request to designate the White Pillars Museum as a local historic site.

Sue Sands motioned, seconded by Gene Hackbarth, to grant Local Landmark status to the White Pillars museum. Upon vote, motion carried unanimously.

RESULT:	**ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]**
MOVER:	Sue Sands, Commissioner
SECONDER:	Gene Hackbarth, Commissioner
AYES:	Crevier, Fleck, Hackbarth, Herber, Sands, Turriff
EXCUSED:	Brian Netzel

d. Review request to designate the Polo-Resto Service Station as a local historic site.

Sue Sands motioned, seconded by Gene Hackbarth, to grant Local Landmark status to the Polo-Resto Service Station. Upon vote, motion carried unanimously.

RESULT:	**ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]**
MOVER:	Sue Sands, Commissioner
SECONDER:	Gene Hackbarth, Commissioner
AYES:	Crevier, Fleck, Hackbarth, Herber, Sands, Turriff
EXCUSED:	Brian Netzel

4. 2014 budget review.

Ken Pabich reminded Commission members that travel reimbursement forms are available from the city.

5. National Register of Historic Places.

No update.

6. Tours of St. Norbert College historic buildings.

Gene Hackbarth reported that Professor Brian Pirman has agreed to recruit students to work on the project; he requested that Gene provide him with specific goals, as well as direction on the type of research and end result desired by the Commission. Sue Sands will assist Gene with compiling that information to submit for the project.

7. Discussion on Federal Tax Credit Program continuation.

   Gene Hackbarth stated that the federal Tax Credit program is being re-evaluated. The Wisconsin Trust for Historic Preservation has asked the Commission to consider, either as an organization or individually, submitting a letter in support of the program's continuation. Gene motioned, seconded by Adam Turriff, to send a letter of support from the Commission to the Wisconsin delegation to Congress. Upon vote, motion carried unanimously.

RESULT:	**ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]**
MOVER:	Gene Hackbarth, Commissioner
SECONDER:	Adam Turriff, Commissioner
AYES:	Crevier, Fleck, Hackbarth, Herber, Sands, Turriff
EXCUSED:	Brian Netzel

8. Local History - Historic Preservation conference.

   Adam Turriff and Mary Jane Herber provided an overview of the sessions they attended at the conference. They both felt that the workshops were valuable and worthwhile.

9. Historic preservation sub-grants for 2014-2015.

   The application has been submitted, and will go before the review committee in February. Because it was submitted as a survey, it receives a higher points schedule than if it was for individual National Register nominations. Mary Jane Herber stated that this Commission has a good track record with past submissions.

10. National Historic Preservation Month May 2015.

    Sue Sands motioned, seconded by Adam Turriff to table this item and move ahead to agenda item 12. Upon vote, motion carried unanimously.

    Mike Fleck motioned, seconded by Gene Hackbarth, to return to this agenda item at 7:50 p.m. Upon vote, motion carried unanimously.

    Gene Hackbarth suggested a possible presentation by UW-Milwaukee staff on the economic impact of historic preservation tax credit projects. Sue Sands suggested inviting local school art classes to study historical buildings, as well as the possibility of a project such as the mural near the Fox River Trail. Ken Pabich noted that the mural is located on a redevelopment site, which may impact the ability to change or add to the mural.

11. Report on property sales within historic districts.

    No sales to report.

12. Discussion of plaques for properties on the National Register of Historic Places to begin at 7:00 PM.

    Mary Jane Herber summarized the goal of the project, and described potential information that could be included on the plaques. City staff were contacted last week by a homeowner who stated that some of the homes already have generic plaques, which were placed many years ago. Discussion followed on the time

frame and funding for those plaques, which were probably placed in the 1980's, prior to the establishment of this Commission.

Gene Hackbarth motioned, seconded by Mike Fleck, to open the meeting for public comments. Upon vote, motion carried unanimously.

Joe Seroogy spoke in favor of the new personalized plaques. He inquired about the proposal to jointly fund the plaques by the homeowner and the city. Mary Jane stated that the Commission wanted the homeowners to share a portion of the cost so that it is a cooperative effort and ensures voluntary participation. She noted that the commercial property owners who received plaques in the spring of 2014 also contributed to the cost.

Ken Pabich stated that if cost estimates remain the same as the commercial plaques, the property owner's contribution would be approximately $70. He also displayed plaque samples from the Erie Landmark Co.

David Duquette stated that he has one of the original plaques on his home. He purchased the house in 1986, and the plaque was already in place. He suggested that the previous owner, Grayden Axtell, may have more information. David stated that he would be interested in a new plaque, although he did express concern about the placement of a larger plaque on the home's siding.

Jamie Rosenberg spoke in favor of the project, stating that there is benefit to playing up the character of the house and giving it personality. He noted that the original family and builder of his home had strong historical significance in the community.

Ken stated that city staff will obtain estimates, create sample proofs, and send to owners in the district with a survey to indicate interest and style preference.

Mary Jane noted that prior to placing an order, dates and names will have to be verified to ensure that information on the original nominations is correct.

13. Future agenda items.

None.

Adjournment

Scott Crevier motioned, seconded by Mike Fleck, to adjourn the meeting at 8:03 p.m. Upon vote, motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Carey Danen