



City of La Crosse, Wisconsin

City Hall
400 La Crosse Street
La Crosse, WI 54601

Meeting Minutes - Final

Heritage Preservation Commission

Thursday, October 22, 2020

6:00 PM

Virtual Meeting via Lifesize

In efforts to reduce the spread of COVID-19, the Heritage Preservation Commission meeting will be conducted through video conferencing. The meeting can be viewed by clicking this link (or typing the URL in your web browser address bar):

<https://stream.lifesizecloud.com/extension/4796124/c7d43560-fea7-4613-9625-63af875bee87>

If you wish to speak on an agenda item, you can do so as part of the virtual meeting. Contact the Planning and Development Department at the email or phone number below so we can provide you with the necessary information to join in.

Tim Acklin

acklint@cityoflacrosse.org

1-608-789-7391

Members of the public who would like to provide written comments on any agenda may do so by emailing acklint@cityoflacrosse.org, using a drop box outside of City Hall or mailing the Department of Planning and Development, 400 La Crosse Street, La Crosse WI 54601.

Questions, call Tim Acklin at 608-789-7391.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:00pm.

Roll Call

Present: 7 - Terence R. Collins, John J. Satory, Chris Kahlow, David Riel, Marcus Zettler, Laura Godden, Janet Allen

Approval of Minutes

1. Approval of the September 16, 2020 Meeting Minutes.

Terry Collins moved to approve the minutes. John Satory seconded. The motion passed 7-0.

2. List of most threatened Historic Resources in La Crosse Project.

Staff stated to the Commission that Commissioner Laura Godden put together a document of the selected properties that showed pictures, building info, and a brief history. Laura stated that she didn't have complete information for all the buildings so she set up the document so any of the commissioners or staff could add to it. Laura also stated that David Riel already added some information to the Caledonia Street property. Staff stated that some additional information needs to be added to the Cass Street properties. Chris Kahlow stated that the word "neglect" is all that needs to be added to describe why it

is threatened. Laura then stated that she was not able to find any historic photos of the 3rd Street S property. Marcus was able to add the original blueprints of the facades. Staff stated that there is a little bit of work remaining to complete before it can be discussed on how to present it to the public. Some additional comments still need to be added in some of the blank sections. Brad Williams from the radio is interested in this project and wants to cover it once we are done with it. Staff suggested website, press release, prepare a document to send to people, social media, etc. Staff stated that he would look to others to help with social media. Chris Kahlow asked if we could have our own Facebook page. Staff stated that the Planning Department may be getting their own page but will have to look into it. Chris Kahlow stated that she would like to have a good old fashioned press conference and we introduce this effort in front of one of the buildings. Marcus stated that the sooner we get this out the better. Staff stated that he thought we could wrap this project up in the next couple of weeks. Chris Kahlow asked if we would be contacting the property owners. David, Janet, and Terry stated that we should be notifying them. Marcus stated that we should notify them but then make the project public right away. The Commission agreed. Chris then stated that this process will be set up well from now on. Chris then asked staff to mention another building that has become threatened. Staff stated that the fire station on Gillette Street is likely going to be demolished, along with several surrounding houses, in order to build a new fire station. While the building is not designated staff has informed the Fire Department about its historic significance and asked if they could find a way to keep the building and/or incorporate it in the design of the new building. Due to this Chris asked the Commission if it should be added to the list. Marcus asked if a Section 106 Review would be required for this project. Staff stated that there is no federal money being used to build it so a Section 106 Review would not be triggered. Janet Allen stated that it should be added to the list. John Satory moved to add Fire Station #4, located at 906 Gillette Street to the list of endangered buildings. Terry Collins seconded. The motion passed by voice vote 7-0.

3. Discussion on Resolution on approving historical pedestrian street lighting standards in the 10th & Cass National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) District.

Chris Kahlow stated that she has been working with the Engineering Department on pedestrian lighting and creating pedestrian scale lighting standards rather than the standards that are used for street lighting. John asked if we are replacing the existing lights or are these for new lights. Chris stated that it was not for Cass Street but for the other streets within the district. She also asked the Commission if it should include 8th Street. Laura asked if a map was available to help explain the project. Staff showed where the project was in the City and explained the concern that without uniform standards there could be different styles in a close proximity with each other. Marcus stated that he would like to see specific styles to areas of the City and a master lighting plan for the City be developed. Janet agreed. Chris stated that unfortunately the funding is available now and needs to be used. Marcus stated that the plans are hard to understand and revised diagrams are needed. Laura agreed that a plan for the City would be good and suggested that different styles for each neighborhood could be considered. Chris reminded the Commission that their oversight is for the historic district at this time. Chris asked staff how the Commission could support this effort. Staff suggested when it goes through the Council process that it get routed through the Commission for a recommendation. Chris agreed and stated that it can be discussed more when that happens.

4. Discussion and possible action on the Myrick Wall located in Spence Park.

Chris Kahlow stated to the Commission that they were sent a copy of the Riverside Park report that included a section on the wall in Spence Park. Chris stated that this is before the Commission as there is an effort to realign Front Street at the intersection with State Street and was concerned about the impact this would have on the existing wall in this area of the Park. She also stated that she did not know enough about the wall and reached out to various people to learn more. This document was sent to the Commission by Laura which included research done on this wall. John Satory stated that he was worried about this wall as well when he was a Council Member and looked into it then. He stated that it was thought it used to be part of the original levy but that it was determined that the wall did not go deep enough to be a levy wall. John also stated that he was concerned about the time capsule project. Staff showed the Commission on a map where the proposed project would occur. Laura asked if this was in an archeological area and if additional review would be needed. Staff stated that it was not located in the City's existing boundary file but will reach out to the Wisconsin Historical Society to see if we can get an updated file. Chris Kahlow stated that maybe Spence Park can be designated on its own. Staff stated that they thought it is part of the Riverside Park designation but would confirm. Chris stated that we should work with the Parks Department on this issue. The project keeps getting pushed out in the Capital Budget but it is being discussed in the Downtown 2040 Plan. Terry Collins stated that he is willing to oppose the project in order to protect the park. The Commission agreed. Staff stated that this leads to an additional outreach effort to other departments about City properties that are locally listed and amending the Code to give binding authority of individually listed properties. Chris stated that this is important as the pergola in Riverside Park has been removed even though it is listed as part of the Riverside Park nomination. Marcus stated he would look in his Otto Merman archives to see if the original drawings are there to give to the Parks Department.

5. Discussion on 2022 Capital Budget requests.

Chris stated that this was a continuation of the discussion from last month about possible projects for the 2021 Capital Budget process. Chris stated that perhaps a project in Spence Park to understand its significance and preserve what is remaining. Marcus asked if staff could show the plaque examples he provided. Marcus went through his examples from other cities with the Commission. Chris stated that we need to get a cost and determine how many plaques are needed and where in order to submit a request. Staff suggested that the Commission work with Margaret Lichter who we worked with in the past on the Copeland Avenue sign. David stated that he like the etched granite signs but that when he proposed this project it was to depict the historic photos of certain areas and the photos would not have the same impact if they were on them. John Satory agreed. Staff stated that in order to move forward the Commission needs to determine what the content of the signs will be, sign type, and location. David stated that he could help with more mock ups to help. Marcus stated that a map of Downtown to help determine locations is needed as well. He also stated that he would like to include the old post office, Stoddard, and other lost buildings. The Commission agreed. Laura suggested creating another Google document for this project. Chris asked about other projects. Staff stated that nominations for National Register properties was also

being considered. Chris felt that the signage project would be enough if we can reach the \$25,000 minimum threshold. Staff felt that we would be able to meet it. Staff also stated that they would look into the language and specifics on this criteria.

6. Nomination of the Holy Trinity School, located at 1417 13th St S, to the State & National Register of Historic Places. Wisconsin Historical Society request for comment.

Staff stated that a notice is provided to the City when properties are being considered for the State and National Register. The City was provided a notice that the Holy Trinity School is being considered in November. Marcus moved to have City staff send a letter of support to the Review Board on behalf of the Commission. David Riel seconded. The motion passed 5-0 by voice vote.

7. Discussion on November and December 2020 meeting dates.

Staff stated that the November and December meetings fall on holidays. Staff also anticipated that the Commission may be receiving applications in November that need action. Laura suggested that the meeting is moved to the 3rd Thursday of those months. The Commission agreed to have special meetings on November 19, 2020 and December 17, 2020.

Agenda Items:

Adjournment

Laura Godden moved to adjourn the meeting. Jane Allen seconded. The motion was passed 5-0 by voice vote. The meeting was adjourned at 8:01pm.

Notice is further given that members of other governmental bodies may be present at the above scheduled meeting to gather information about a subject over which they have decision-making responsibility.

NOTICE TO PERSONS WITH A DISABILITY

Requests from persons with a disability who need assistance to participate in this meeting should call the City Clerk's office at (608) 789-7510 or send an email to ADAcityclerk@cityoflacrosse.org, with as much advance notice as possible.