



City of La Crosse, Wisconsin

City Hall
400 La Crosse Street
La Crosse, WI 54601

Meeting Minutes - Final

Heritage Preservation Commission

Thursday, February 21, 2019

6:00 PM

3rd Floor Conference Room

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 P.M.

Present: 4 - Jessica Olson, Chris Kahlow, David Riel, Marcus Zettler

Excused: 2 - Terence R. Collins, Frederick Beseler

Others present: Barb Kooiman, Gar Amunson, Tim Acklin, Allison Winkler.

Approval of Minutes

1. Approval of the January 17, 2019 Meeting Minutes.

A motion was made by Kahlow, seconded by Zettler to APPROVE the previous meeting minutes. The motion carried 4-0.

Agenda Items:

2. [19-0066](#) Nomination of the Vincent Tausche House, located at 1202 Madison Street, to be designated as a Local Historic Landmark.

A motion was made by Reil, seconded by Kahlow to open a public hearing. The motion carried 4-0. Amunson stated he owned the house for three years and worked on it for four years. He also noted that the house was owned by Vincent Tausche who owned Tausche Hardware Company and that there is Tausche influence throughout the house. He also stated that Percy Bently was the architect. Zettler stated it was an excellent nomination with great research and was a great read. Reil asked about floor plan changes. Amunson stated there were no changes and that everything was left the same. He also stated that the plumbing and electrical were new. Reil stated it looked original from the photographs. A motion was made by Kahlow, seconded by Zettler to close the public hearing. The motion carried 4-0. Staff suggested the nomination be approved based on 3 of 4 criteria. A motion was made by Reil, seconded by Zettler to APPROVE nomination as submitted under the four criteria. The motion to approve as submitted carried 4-0.

3. [19-0051](#) Historic Lighting Boundary at 10th & Cass Street.

Hassemer stated The Downtown Neighborhood Association met on Tuesday and voted to put the project on hold. The Engineering Department was amiable to the request to have a better plan. Hassemer asked if the Commission wanted him to do presentation or not. Kahlow stated she had seen the presentation while others have not and suggested he just describe the project. Hassemer stated the project is to put lights on 8th and 9th follow the same specs as on Cass Street. Zettler stated he thought the design fit in stating that lights will shine in no matter what the height. He also stated having lights was better. Kahlow stated the location is in a residential district and that they should be mindful of houses when determining the height of the lights and if they are too bright, too many, or shine into the windows. Kahlow would like to see a better solution. She asks how they can integrate this into a historic district. She also states a strong opinion on the height and brightness and how people will need room darkening blinds. She also stated there are different standards for historic district vs a new subdivision. Kahlow suggested finding out why lights are needed. Zettler asked what were the standards used? Hassemer stated the Municipal Code - standard used is .5 foot candles. Zettler stated some districts dim the lights after 10 pm. Hassemer stated that might be an option but they needed to do more research. Reil asked where the boundary is. Hassemer stated originally they had marked out both sides of street even though it may not be in the historic boundary. He stated Cass street was an exception and that maybe they continue into other districts across West Avenue. Olson stated she would like to see yellow lights as it looks more natural. She also stated she thought the Commission had recommended that type and wasn't sure if the Board of Public Works understood that. She would also like to see public improvements come through Heritage Preservation Commission when in historical district for review. Hassemer stated he had to balance the amount of light needed with the number of poles. He stated that it would be ok to develop other solutions if there was an agreed plan that was used or proven in other places. Kahlow stated that different standards apply to historical districts, they are not uniform and must be looked at differently. Hassemer said they would be willing to look at different standards and compare or validate with other groups. Olson stated lights are not the only concern and they need to look at other aesthetic public improvements to come through HPC for review and approval. Hassemer stated they may not need to be in municipal code and they will work with whatever group requests them. Olson stated she would like to see HPC members weigh in. Hassemer stated they could review budget ahead of time and be part of the process. Olson was concerned that if the request originated outside of the HPC they would not be notified. Zettler stated Paris does dim lights at night. A motion was made by Kahlow to REFER the project to light 8th and 9th to work with the Downtown Neighborhood Association on boundary limits, standards, and specifications, seconded by Reil. The motion carried 4-0.

4. [18-1034](#) Update, Review, Discussion and Possible Action on the Architectural and Historical Intensive Survey Draft Report and Project.

Staff provided an update on the status of the project, including staff notifying Ms. Kooiman of the project deadlines stated by the Commission at their January 2019 meeting. A motion was made by Reil to open a public hearing, seconded by Kahlow. The motion passed 4-0. Ms. Kooiman stated that the report was done, with only a very small edit to make. Per the Commission's request a thumb drive was being prepared with all of the project materials including the word documents for the report, photos and photo documentation. She stated she is also fine with turning over the hand written survey sheets. Ms. Kooiman stated that she regrets having to put the Commission into this position but would like to request that the Commission continue letting her finish the data entry portion of the project with the Wisconsin Historical Society. Ms. Kooiman stated that she understands that the remainder of her contract is forfeited but would like to finish the data entry portion anyway. That part of the project would be a monumental task to turn over to someone else to finish as they would have to interpret her notes. She then stated that she didn't think staff would be able to work on the project immediately and the Commission had nothing to lose by granting her access to the WHS database to complete the data entry portion. Marcus Zettler asked what was left to enter. Ms. Kooiman stated that it takes about 15 minutes to enter in a new record and there was about 300-400 new ones to enter in. Less time to update a current record. Chris Kahlow moved to close the public hearing. David Reil seconded. The motion passed 4-0. Chris Kahlow moved to go into a closed session. David Reil seconded. The motion passed 4-0. Marcus Zettler moved to come out of a closed session. David Reil seconded. The motion passed 4-0. Marcus Zettler moved that the contract with Ms. Kooiman is found to be in default, all of the project materials must be submitted to the Planning Department no later than 5pm on March 1, 2019, the remainder of the contract totaling \$5,968.19 is forfeited, data entry may be continued at no cost to the City and will be evaluated on week to week basis by staff. All data entry must be completed by March 21, 2019. Additionally, to the extent that the cost expended to finish the project is beyond the grant amount, the Heritage Preservation Commission will hold Ms. Kooiman responsible for paying the excess amount. David Reil seconded. The motion passed 3-1. Kahlow voting no.

5. Discussion on Historic Preservation Intern Project- Allison Winkler.

Allison Winkler gave an overview of the website and story map projects.

6. Discussion on changing the monthly Heritage Preservation Commission meeting location.

Staff stated that the Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Department asked if the Heritage Preservation Commission and the Board of Park Commissioners could permanently switch meeting rooms for their monthly meetings. A motion was made by Kahlow, seconded by Reil to not move location. The motion carried 4-0.

7. 2019 Heritage Preservation Commission Work Plan.

A motion was made by Kahlow, seconded by Zettler to REFER this item to the March meeting. The motion carried 4-0.

Adjournment

CM Jessica Olson thanked David Reil for working with the Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Department on finalizing the materials for Memorial Pool. A motion was made by Kahlow, seconded by Zettler to Adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 7:50 P.M.

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.