



City of La Crosse, Wisconsin

City Hall
400 La Crosse Street
La Crosse, WI 54601

Meeting Minutes - Final

Heritage Preservation Commission

Thursday, December 17, 2020

6:00 PM

Via Video Conference

Special Meeting

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: 6 - Terence R. Collins, Chris Kahlow, David Riel, Marcus Zettler, Laura Godden, Janet Allen

Excused: 1 - John J. Satory

Approval of Minutes

1. Approval of the November 19, 2020 Special Meeting Minutes.

Terry Collins moved to approve the minutes. Laura Godden seconded. The motion passed by voice vote 6-0.

Agenda Items:

2. [20-1700](#) Review of report to the Common Council from the La Crosse Historic and Cultural Museum Planning Task Force.

Staff provided an overview of the efforts of the La Crosse Historic and Cultural Museum Planning Task Force to the Commission. Staff informed them on the creation of the task force, their purpose, their development of a Mission and Vision Statement, their visits to local and regional museums to gather data, and their partnership with UW-L to develop a Feasibility Study. The Feasibility Study included feedback from surveys and focus groups that were conducted and included information on the desire for a museum in the community, community support, location, general cost of building new or re-using a new building, and components and exhibits that a new museum should offer or include. The next steps include building capacity and exploring working with an exhibit designer and architect and conducting an organizational feasibility study, and a fundraising capability assessment. David Riel asked about the possibility of using an existing building located just south of the Cameron Bridge. Staff stated that it is being used and an addition is being added to it. Laura Godden asked if there would be a request in the next Capital Budget cycle for this project. Staff stated that there will be. Staff also stated that some of the next steps include building partnerships with the County, both City and County organizations, as well as individuals. Janet Allen moved to move this report forward to the Common Council. Marcus Zettler seconded. The motion passed by voice vote 6-0.

3. [20-1774](#)

Review of a Certificate of Appropriateness for the property located at 410 Veterans Memorial Drive E. (U.S. Fish Control Laboratory)

Marcus Zettler stated that he is recusing himself as a Commission Member from this item. Staff provided an overview of the project. Marcus Zettler added additional information about the building's history and project. Laura Godden asked if the existing water wheel will be impacted or impact the building. Staff stated that the water wheel project was reviewed by the Heritage Preservation Commission. Terry Collins asked who the tenant would be. Marcus stated that it is unknown at this time. Dan Trussoni from the Parks Department stated that the existing tenant will be leaving at the end of the month. The interior will not be improved to much until a new tenant is found. Terry Collins moved to approve the Certificate of Recommendation as submitted. David Riel seconded. The motion passed by voice vote 6-0.

4. Most threatened/endangered Historic Resources in La Crosse Project.

Staff presented the document created by David Riel to the Commission. David Riel provided an overview of to the Commission. Terry Collins stated that it was done really well. Chris Kahlow agreed. Chris asked what the next steps are. Staff stated that notification of the property owners is one of the next steps. Chris Kahlow suggested that a personal phone call would be more appropriate to the building owners and that each Commission member be responsible for contacting the owner of the building they nominated. David Riel stated that it would also be important to provide solutions with this effort. David also asked about potential media outlets. Chris agreed that the media would be included in promoting it. Chief Gilliam asked if Fire Station #4 could be removed from the list. He then provided an overview of the effort to develop a new fire station at this location including that they looked at trying to save the building and incorporate it into the new building and it was determined that it was cost prohibitive. Chris stated that the Commission is tasked with bringing awareness to buildings such as this. This effort is not intending for it to be saved but to educate and bring awareness. Chief Gilliam stressed his

concern that any efforts to save this building would cost the taxpayers more money, especially due to its current health and safety condition as well as its inefficiency to serve both men and women firefighters. David Riel moved to remove Fire Station #4 from the list of threatened and endangered properties. There was no second. The motion failed due to the lack of a second. Staff stated that they can help get phone numbers for the owners and draft up a letter. Marcus stated that he will put some talking points together for feedback.

5. Update & discussion on 2022 Capital Budget requests.

Staff stated that they have not made any progress on this project yet. Staff has to send a map to Commissioner Godden to move this project along. Laura Godden created a google document for the Commission to work on. Chris Kahlow asked when the deadline was. Staff stated that the deadline is February 15, 2021. Staff suggested that the Commission assist with location so we can determine the number of signs. Staff also stated that they would contact Margaret Lichter to discuss this project. David Riel volunteered to work with her.

6. Update on the Historic/Pedestrian Lighting Project.

Chris Kahlow stated that she is working with a company that will hopefully complete a study within the next six weeks. An update will be provided at the next meeting.

7. Update on the Maid Rite Cafe Building located at 1121 Caledonia Street.

Marcus Zettler stated that the building was demolished. He worked with the owner to document the building. Marcus also stated that he would like to begin an archive of documenting buildings that are being demolished. David Riel added that he had help removed the material on the upper front facade and discovered a lot of its original fabric underneath, including the original Maid Rite sign. He then stated that he attempted to salvage the pieces of the sign but was unable to salvage as much as he wanted. Marcus stated that it was unfortunate that the owner did not make the repairs necessary to save it.

8. Update and possible action on the Architectural and Intensive Survey.

Staff provided a background of the project to the Commission. Staff informed the Commission that they discovered that the project has not been completed. Staff also informed the Commission on the issues that occurred during the project. When staff discussed this matter with the consultant that was hired to complete this project they admitted that it had not been completed but would like to per approval of the Commission and the Wisconsin Historical Society. The options before the Commission would be to allow the consultant to finish the project, require the consultant to type up their notes and provide them to staff to complete the project, or pursue litigation against the consultant. Staff added that litigation would cost money and the City Attorney stated it may cost more than the amount of money we would be pursuing. Terry Collins asked if the consultant would receive the remaining money if completed. Staff stated she would not. Terry stated then he would be in favor of allowing them to finish it then. Laura Godden agreed. Marcus Zettler stated his frustration about this project not being finished. Marcus Zettler moved to allow the consultant until the end of January to finish the project and if they do not they will provide

all of the notes to the Planning Department to complete the project. Additionally, this is per the approval of the Wisconsin Historical Society and that the work performed will not be compensated in any way. Terry Collins seconded. The motion passed by voice vote 6-0.

Adjournment

Terry Collins moved to adjourn the meeting. David Riel seconded. The motion passed by voice vote 6-0. The meeting was adjourned at 8:04pm.

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.