

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

Time and Date: Wednesday, April 24, 2024, at 4:00 p.m. in the Maple Room of Wausau City Hall
Members Present: Gary Gisselman, Kevin Crooks, Steve Miller, Mary Forer, Christine Martens, Patrick Bacher
(arrived 4:12 pm)
Others Present: Brad Lenz

In compliance with Chapter 19, Wisconsin Statutes, notice of this meeting was posted and transmitted to the *Wausau Daily Herald* in the proper manner.

Chairperson Gisselman called the meeting to order at approximately 4:00 p.m. stating that a quorum was present.

Elect Chair and Vice-Chair

Gisselman said that a new chair and vice-chair should be elected. Martens motioned to elect Gisselman as Chair. Miller seconded, and the motion was carried unanimously.

Gisselman said a motion for Vice Chair is in order. Miller said he appreciates Crooks' experience and knowledge of the ordinances, and he nominates Crooks for Vice Chair. Forer seconded. There were no other nominations. The motion for Crooks as Vice Chair carried unanimously.

Allow Marathon County Public Library to digitize "The City in the Pinery" book, copyrighted by the City of Wausau

Gisselman said that this request came from the public library who is digitizing a lot of different things. They noticed that this book is copyrighted by the City of Wausau, so they didn't want to go ahead without our permission. Gisselman thought it best to start with this commission.

Forer asked if they would make it available through their digitization project, which Gisselman confirmed.

Martens said it would be great for it to be available to anyone. Crooks said he couldn't think of any downsides to having it in the digital domain. Forer said most of the information in the book was pulled from other sources, so it is already out there. Gisselman said there are not a lot of hard copies left floating around. Forer asked if it is for sale; Gisselman said it is not.

Martens made a motion to allow the public library to digitize the book. Miller seconded, and the motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

Discussion and Possible action on landmarking Marathon County Home and Hospital (1200 Lake View Drive).

Gisselman said this was discussed at a previous meeting. He said it is owned by the County. Martens suggested talking to them about landmarking the building. The committee discussed that it was around 100 years old. Miller suggested talking to the neighborhood group, who was interested in the landmarking of John Marshall school. Gisselman said we can start gathering information and talk to various groups – he wants to keep it on the radar for this year.

Feedback from recent bus tour.

Gisselman said there was a discussion last month about the bus tour. He said there were a few properties to talk more about and wondered if there were others. He noted Grace Church on South 3rd Avenue is from the 1920's, although the front has been compromised. He said across the street is the German club. Martens noted the old grocery store directly to the north.

Gisselman asked about other areas. Martens noted the riverfront area, particularly the east side. Gisselman noted everything west of River Drive. Discussion followed about River Drive properties, including the former masonic temple and 210-212 River Drive.

The commission discussed various properties on 3rd Avenue, including the Deutscher Arbeiter Verein. Crooks asked about an old gymnasium on North 3rd Ave. Gisselman said it was originally a presbyterian chapel and used as a temporary home of the YMCA.

Gisselman asked if Grace Church should be landmarked. Crooks said that for a landmark it was probably compromised too much with the front addition, but it could fit into a district. Bacher said there were other additions to the original chapel. Gisselman agreed with Crooks about the front addition.

Gisselman said the Chocolate Shop is a former grocery store, and while there are a lot of them, this one is pretty well intact, unlike others. Miller suggested that while the church may be out of consideration, maybe the German hall, the chocolate shop, and the ballet up the street should remain in. Martens asked about Finnigans across the street from the ballet. Gisselman said it was a tavern and a broom factory.

The commission discussed the Parcherville area as well as the Salvation Army properties.

Gisselman said this discussion will give us some things to study this year.

Discuss Centennial Home Program.

Gisselman said that this was suggested last month. He said years ago this commission had bronze plaques for homeowners. He asked if we wanted to get back into a plaque project. Included in the packet was a sample from another community – Oshkosh. The commission discussed the information from Oshkosh's program and how a program in Wausau might work.

Updates: Zion Lutheran and WI Association of Historic Preservation Commissions

Gisselman said a letter is included which confirms the nomination of Zion to the national register.

Lenz said he didn't know who gets the emails from WAHPC, but just a reminder that their Spring conference is later this week.

Adjournment.

Gisselman said the next meeting would be May 29th. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 4:55 p.m.