

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
MARCH 10, 2025

PRESENT: Kim Fredrick, Kris Coleman, Brian Giles, Vickie Schnitzler

ABSENT: Ken Bargender, Mike Meyers, Bill Penker

OTHERS: Steve Barg, City Administrator

Chairperson Schnitzler called the meeting to order at 3:34 p.m. in the City Hall public conference room.

Approve minutes – February 10, 2025 (regular meeting)

HP 25-08 Coleman moved and Giles seconded a motion to approve minutes from the regular meeting of February 10, 2025.

Motion carried

HP 25-09 Fredrick moved and Giles seconded a motion to approve minutes from the annual meeting of February 10, 2025.

Motion carried

Citizen comments

- Barg shared a proof of the new Pleasant Hill Historic District sign. Members generally found it to be acceptable, but questioned not having a logo at the top, and because some letters were not shiny. Barg agreed to follow up on these issues with the vendor.
- Barg noted that he had sent members the past intensive survey reports via e-mail. He asked anyone who wanted a printed copy to let him know. Schnitzler stated that she would like a printed copy.

Continue work on preparation of an application for Wood County grant funding

After discussion, it was agreed to proceed with 4 items for the application, prioritized as follows:

- Barg agreed to secure a quote from Sewah for the remaining 5 historic district signs and posts.
- Barg agreed to check on ordering more weatherproof stickers for the historic preservation signs.
- Barg agreed to find out where we purchased historic preservation yard signs, so we can get a quote.
- Follow up with Bargender, who agreed to work with the Parks & Recreation Department on plans for fencing around Engine 2442.

Review language for letters to prospective candidates for the local historic register

Members reviewed a draft letter that Barg prepared to send to prospective candidates for the local historic register. It was decided to remove the last sentence in the first paragraph, which referenced the National Register of Historic Places. Schnitzler agreed to work on an article regarding the local historic register for National Historic Preservation month that Communications Coordinator Tom Loucks can publicize using the City's various platforms.

Discuss follow-up plans for addressing those items discussed at the annual meeting

With members missing, include Penker, it was agreed to postpone this item until the April meeting.

Report on Historic Preservation Commission booth at Marshfield Area Cultural Fair

Fredrick reported that things went very well during the morning when he and Penker were at the booth, with many people taking stickers and brochures. Coleman advised that she and Bargender had fewer adults but more kids in the afternoon, with visitors taking fewer brochures and seeming more selective. Coloring books were given out in large numbers, and more than 100 brochures were taken throughout the day. It was agreed that this was once again a successful event for the Commission.

Update on planning for National Historic Preservation Month 2025

Bill Geiger advised that plans are changing, due to not enough 8th grade awards presenters coming forward this year. Members discussed the Commission possibly holding a separate annual event instead. In regard to the Third Grade Contest, Coleman reported that the Parks & Recreation Department has once again agreed to provide one Vandehey Waters season pass as a top prize, along with day passes to the winner in each school. She stated that she has not received a response yet from Kris Keogh regarding assistance for the Out & About program.

Update on additional placement of historic preservation brochures

Coleman agreed to check with Aster; and Schnitzler will follow up Cedar Rail and Parkview. Other places suggested included the 3 WELS locations (Adams, East 21st, and Apple), and the 2 Stoney River facilities (assisted living; memory care).

Update on ordinance to allow historic district signs in the public right-of-way

Barg said that the city attorney does not believe an ordinance is necessary, since the Public Works Director has authority to allow such sign placement under Chapter 24-06(2)(h). However, in discussing this issue with the Acting Public Works Director, he stated that he would not be comfortable approving an exception in this situation, since it might then be difficult to justify denial of subsequent requests. Barg will follow up on this issue and keep the Commission posted.

Update on a state historical marker recognizing Fred Beell

As Meyers was not present to give an update, it was agreed to postpone this item until the April meeting.

Update on plans for restoration of the Stierle Bird Exhibit

Schnitzler spoke to Library Director Jill Porter, who said that the Library gave all rights to the exhibit to the Parks & Recreation Department. Schnitzler has not heard back from Julia Colby of Milwaukee Public Museum regarding the list of supplies, etc. that she could provide to help us with this project.

Staff update

Barg mentioned the recent denial of the Commission's CLG grant application. He noted that while this is disappointing, the e-mail from Jason Tish provided encouragement for the Commission to apply again in the future. Barg also updated members on the Weinbrenner redevelopment project, in which city staff and its consultant are negotiating an agreement with the selected developer (J.Jeffers & Co.).

Suggested items for future agendas

In addition to those items postponed earlier in this meeting, members requested the following for the next meeting: Continue working on grant application to Wood County, and discuss the Commission's plan for involvement in community events and activities this summer.

Announce next meeting date/time

Schnitzler announced that the next meeting will be held on Monday, April 7th at 3:30 p.m. in the City Hall Public Conference Room. .

With no further business before the Commission, Coleman moved and Fredrick seconded the motion to adjourn. Motion carried. Schnitzler adjourned the meeting at 4:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Barg
City Administrator