

Community Development Department

222 Lewis Street
River Falls, WI 54022
715.425.0900
www.rfcity.org



AGENDA HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION April 10, 2019 at 6:00 pm Council Chambers

Action may be taken on any of the following items.

CALL HPC MEETING TO ORDER

APPROVAL OF AGENDA/MINUTES

Minutes of the March 13, 2019 meeting

PUBLIC COMMENTS – Non-Agenda Items

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Power Plant – Local Landmark Update
2. Veteran’s Park Plaque Update
3. NPS Grant Opportunity for Swinging Bridge Restoration Update
4. Plaque for The Walker Farm
5. Local Landmark/National Register Outreach

CALENDAR

Next Historic Preservation Commission meeting May 8, 2019

ADJOURNMENT

***Council members may be in attendance for informational purposes only.
No official Council action will be taken.***

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MINUTES HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION MARCH 13, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. Council Chambers

HPC Members Present: Heidi Heinze, Mark Anderson, Jayne Hoffman, Michael Page, Jeff Bjork, Pam Friede
(in at 6:05, out at 7:00)
HPC Members Absent: Denton Anderson
Staff Present: Brandy Howe, Sam Wessel
Others Present: None

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting convened at 6:03 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 13, 2019

M/Bjork, S/M. Anderson – motion carried 5-0

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Bjork acknowledged River Falls School District Superintendent, Jamie Benson, and staff for the excellent commemorative send-off for the Academy building. All agreed that it was a successful farewell.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Power Plant – Local Landmark

Heinze prepared a draft letter to Scot Simpson regarding the proposed landmark designation for the Power Plant/site that was distributed at the February HPC meeting. The Commission reviewed the draft and discussed edits, including the addition of a line requesting the City Council to direct staff to draft a resolution of support for landmark designation. The HPC asked staff to make some other minor edits, add an image to depict the proposed area for designation, and to provide the signed letter to Scot Simpson and the City Council.

2. Chapter 3 of the Preservation Plan

Staff provided a revised draft of Chapters 1-3 of the Preservation Plan. The HPC reviewed the proposed changes and suggested some additional revisions. Howe will revise the documents and provide an updated version at the March meeting that will include the next chapter of the plan.

3. Veteran's Park Plaque

Heinze reported that she found a newspaper article from 1948 that references "Main Street Park" as the place where a "list of honored soldiers" was displayed during war years. She also prepared draft verbiage for a plaque, which was reviewed by the HPC and they offered some edits. Heinze will share the draft with American Legion for their review. Once that has been signed off on by the Legion, staff will get a cost estimate to have the plaque made in bronze, as requested by the Legion.

4. NPS Grant Opportunity for Swinging Bridge Restoration

Page reported that he and City staff met to come up with a game plan to write and submit the grant for swinging bridge rehabilitation. He and staff will be working on this and plan to submit by the April 1, 2019 deadline.

5. Plaque for the Walker Farm

Heinze reported that Carrol Mottaz requested a plaque to mark her home as the Walker Farm. Heinze noted that in these cases the HPC has split the cost of the plaque 50/50 with the property owner. The HPC reviewed draft text provided by Carrol Mottaz and will research this a little further in advance of the next meeting. Once a narrative has been finalized, staff will get a quote for an angled plaque on a pedestal.

6. Local Landmark/National Register Outreach

Howe reported that Joe DeRose from the Wisconsin Historical Society offered to come to River Falls to hold a workshop to educate residents about local and national landmark designations. The HPC will consider this as they go forward with this work plan item.

CALENDAR

Next meeting April 10, 2019.

AJOURNMENT

Hoffman made a motion to adjourn at 7:05 p.m.

M/Hoffman, S/Bjork – motion carried 5-0

Respectfully submitted,



Brandy Howe, Senior Planner

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HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

April 10, 2019

STAFF REPORT

AGENDA DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Power Plant – Local Landmark

Staff revised the letter to the Scot Simpson, City Administrator/City Council per HPC's direction at the March meeting. Per staff's recommendation, Heinze and Anderson are scheduled to meet with Scot Simpson on Wednesday, April 10th before the HPC meeting to discuss the letter and the proposed landmark designation for the power plant/site. The letter will be provided to the City Council after the meeting with Scot Simpson.

2. Veteran's Park plaque

HPC to report on progress made on this project.

3. NPS Grant Opportunity for Swinging Bridge Restoration/Clean-up

Planning and engineering staff met regarding the proposed grant for a swinging bridge rehabilitation project. The engineers indicated that the \$161K rehab project identified in the 2018 inspection report isn't warranted until 2050-2060. In other words, there is another 30+ years of life left in the existing bridge infrastructure. With that in mind, staff made the decision to hold off on applying for the grant for this project. Note that there is bridge maintenance work in the budget that is planned to be completed this year in connection with the Glen Park improvement project.

4. Plaque for The Walker Farm

HPC to report on progress made on this project.

5. National Register Info Packet and Letter

No new updates. Staff is waiting for HPC direction on moving forward with this work plan item.