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**Community Development
MINUTES
Historic Preservation Commission Meeting
April 13, 2011
6:30 p.m. City Hall- Kinni Room**

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL – Meeting convened at 6:30 p.m

Members present: Betty Most, Audrey Alton, Daniel Geister, Jeanne Zirbel, and Scott Morrissette
Kirby Symes, Heidi Rushmann

Members absent: None

Staff present: Tony Steiner, City Planner

Others present: Marge Stokke

APPROVAL OF MINUTES –

MSC Alton/Symes to approve the minutes of the March 9, 2011 meeting- Unanimous

PUBLIC COMMENTS-

Marge Stokke spoke on matters of interest to her.

OLD BUSINESS –

Future Historic Preservation Projects Priority List

The Historic Preservation Commission reviewed the preservation project list and prioritized the following projects to work on, keeping in mind that there will be periphery issues that will come up as time goes along.

1. Continue to work on Historic Plaques for buildings based on the priority list developed earlier this year.
2. Continue work on Freight Depot Relocation/Reuse plan.
3. Develop a City-Wide Historic Preservation Survey.
4. Expand and update the content of the Historic Preservation Web Page with focus on the following content items.
 - Update Historic Preservation Plan
 - Create a Historic Preservation Brochure
 - Update Walking Tour Brochure
 - Develop news articles for City News Letter (published four times a year)
5. Academy Building Historic Designation

Language for Rossel Building and Tremont Building Plaques

The Commission discussed the Tremont building first. The building has been the home to a numerous business over the years making a chronology similar to plaques already done difficult due to the limitations of space on the plaque. The Commission decided to keep it a simple narrative and list of categories and a prominent tenant within that category. The plaque would also refer to the City web site for more detailed information if the reader is interested. Heidi will work on narrative. Dan will help with background information and will research a suitable picture for the plaque.

The Commission turned to the Rossel Building and reviewed the draft chronology. After a brief discussion it, minor changes were made to the chronology including the ordering of information to be similar to past plaques, (date, name, business). The changes will be brought back to the Commission for review and final edit.

District West Maple and Fremont Street

Heidi had contacted Robin and Tyler Boles, owners of two of the properties and reported that they were supportive of being in a historic district. Scott reported that he had not yet contacted Randy Cudd, owner of another property in the area being considered. Dan contacted the State and gathered information on national designation process. State recommended updating 1990 study. It was noted that other Historic districts can be found in Hudson, New Richmond and Eau Claire. Commission felt that should the project proceed it should be for local designation first and if there is interest by the property owners then national designation can be considered. It was noted that national designation has more stringent rules. The city has a process within its Historic Preservation Ordinance for designating a district. Also the suggestion that the district be done as a block to include other properties not in the 1990 survey. The commission decided to consider the idea as they proceed.

Update on Plaque for 811 Oak Knoll

Scott talked to property owners and they are eager to go forward. The application is being prepared and will be submitted to Tony. Commission directed Tony to order plaque in hope that it will be available for May Preservation Month. Dan will work on story for newspaper similar to what was done for the Beckham House. Tony will check with property owner to schedule a site visit.

Open House/ Ice Cream Social for Warehouse/Depot

Tony reported that the depot has been cleaned out. Commission discussed a date for the ice cream social. Town and Country Day (June 16th) was selected as there will be a high amount of foot traffic in the area. Jeanne will contact Pat Vukovich regarding purchase of ice cream and equipment. Commission needs to discuss hours, advertising etc. Time between 10 and 2:00 suggested to avoid conflict with breakfast and Cherries Jubilee in the afternoon.

Preservation Month

A letter to the editor regarding preservation was reviewed by the Commission. The letter will be forwarded to the river Falls Journal for publication. Tony also noted that a proclamation for Preservation month will be on the May 10th council agenda for reading by the Mayor. The proclamation will be displayed at the front counter for the public to see during the month of May.

NEW BUSINESS –

Agenda Items for May 11, 2011

1. Review Application for Historic Plaque at 811 Oak Knoll
2. Review Updated Draft of Chronology for Rossel Building.
3. Finalize Plans for HPC Ice Cream Social

ADJOURNMENT – Meeting adjourned at 7.55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tony Steiner, City Planner