

FERGUS FALLS HERITAGE PRESERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
January 3, 2018

The Fergus Falls Heritage Preservation Commission met on Wednesday, January 3, 2018, at 12:00 PM in the City Hall Council Chambers. Members present were: Chairman Chris Schuelke, Tom Hintgen, Ed Strand, Laurie Lucking, and Lois Josefson. Absent were Jan Nelson, and Al Kremeier (ex-officio).

City staff in attendance included Andrew Bremseth, City Administrator, and Jill Hanson who took minutes for the meeting.

Declare Quorum / Open Meeting:

The meeting was called to order at 12:05 PM.

Approval of Minutes

Chairman Chris Schuelke opened the meeting with a discussion of the minutes of October 4, 2017. The minutes were read, and it was moved by Ed Strand and seconded by Laurie Lucking to approve the minutes. Passed unanimously.

Historic Designation of Prince Honeycutt House, Stone Work at the Golf Course, etc.

Chairman Schuelke opened a discussion on the historic designation of the Prince Honeycutt House. Laurie Lucking stated that she will work on the local designation for the Prince Honeycutt House next week.

Laurie mentioned that she was also going to work on the National Registration of the Page House, but she was wondering if Gordon had a copy of the original National Registration on the Page House. Chairman Schuelke stated that he would see what he had at the museum.

There was some discussion about the Stone Work at the Golf Course, and how it was a WPA project. Lois suggested getting a list of the WPA projects in Fergus Falls and doing a registration of all the WPA projects in Fergus Falls. Lois stated the part of the stone wall at the golf course has been removed because it fell apart, and how it is important to preserve historic properties. Lois mentioned doing some articles on preservation in May, and publishing them in the newspaper. This would tie in with preservation month.

Chairman Schuelke mentioned that all of Otter Tail County had WPA projects that were done, and the HPC could make a list of all the WPA projects that were done in the County. This historical information could be part of 150th Anniversary celebration of Otter Tail County.

There was some discussion about which local designations the group should pursue, and in what order they should be done. The group decided that they needed to look at some of their completed Historic Surveys and pick some houses and/or properties they would like to designate. Then they could decide which ones to work on first. There was some discussion about finishing the last historic survey of Fergus Falls.

Historic Designation Ceremonies & Medallions for Historic Properties

Chairman Schuelke thought that this would be a good activity for preservation month in May. We have the medallions, and we could have ceremonies for the recent local designations for Otto the Otter, the Eagle's Ship, the Page House and the Zachmann House (aka the Christianson House).

There was some discussion about whether any of the houses on the local registry had medallions attached to them, and that the HPC should make sure that each house or property on the local registry has one displayed.

It was suggested that the HPC set some dates at the February meeting for preservation activities in May.

1928 Pioneer Home Demolition

Chairman Schuelke opened a discussion on the Pioneer Home demolition, and how the HPC should be notified before permits are issued for changes or demolition of historic sites. Laurie mentioned that she read the State Statutes for Historic Preservation, and the current law changes that related to Historic Preservation. The wording

states that a community may establish a historic preservation commission, and this commission should be reviewing projects that relate to historic properties. Laurie stated that the problem is that Fergus Falls has not put together a list of historic properties, and does not have a policy for notifying the HPC of requested changes to historic sites. There was some discussion about the City Codes, and how the HPC has the right to take some actions based on City Code.

Laurie opened a discussion about the HPC doing more local designations, and having more members learning to fill out the designation applications. If properties are listed on the local designation list, it make people more aware of their historic status and more likely to want to preserve them. It also gives the City a list of properties that the HPC should be notified about if there are building permit requests.

The HPC just wants to be informed about permits for historic sites so they can speak to the property owners to make sure that they understand how changes can affect the historic status of the property. The HPC can only provide information to the property owner, they can't stop anyone from making changes to the property.

Chairman Schuelke suggested at the next meeting the HPC review "Building from the Past" by Jim Gray & Marjorie Barton. This book highlights a pictorial tour of the architectural history found in Fergus Falls.

State Hospital – Phased Demolition Plan

Chairman Schuelke initiated a discussion about the State Hospital, asking City Administrator Andrew Bremseth to provide an update. Andrew handed out a new map of the phase reconstruction of the State Hospital, and explained the changes to Phase 1. Andrew indicated that the City Council recently accepted plans and specifications and authorized staff to go out for bids on most of the original phase one deconstruction. The City is working with SHPO and Stantec on the phased deconstruction.

There was some discussion about the improvements that were done to the State Hospital over the last year, and how the HPC would like to see a list of the improvements that were done. Chairman Schuelke mentioned he heard that the Council would like to see Phase 2 and Phase 3 combined. There was some discussion, and Andrew mentioned that after Phase 1, the City's current funding for deconstruction will be mostly used up. All of this work will be done with grant monies already gifted by the State of Minnesota and the City will be looking for additional funding during the upcoming legislative session before we can move forward with the next phase.

Chairman Schuelke inquired about Scott Kvamme's interest in the Memorial Building at the RTC campus. Andrew stated that Mr. Kvamme has not approached staff or provided a proposal to move this idea along. Andrew stated that on January 16th there will be a Council meeting with discussion about the RTC phased deconstruction, and members of the HPC should come to the meeting if they would like to hear more information about the phased deconstruction.

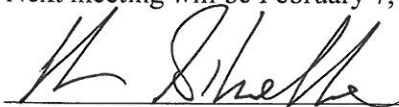
Misc. Items

The HPC talked about the Downtown & Riverfront Master Plan, and the history of Fergus Falls.

Andrew was asked some questions about whether the HPC and the Sister City group would become one group, and he replied that nothing has been confirmed, but the idea is being explored. Lois stated that she felt that it is important to keep the HPC focused on their purpose.

The meeting adjourned at 1:00 PM.

Next meeting will be February 7, 2018 at 12:00 PM.



Chairman

Fergus Falls Human Rights Commission
Wednesday, January 24, 2018; 4:00 p.m.
City Council chamber

Members attending: Amanda Whitney, Kadie Schroeder, Deborah Zachmann
Guests: Katelyn Boyer, Adult Services Librarian, Fergus Falls Public Library; Lori Larson, Executive Director, Fergus Falls Area College Foundation

Deborah called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

Introductions

Katelyn applied and received confirmation of a Legacy grant from the Viking Library System. She reviewed plans for the upcoming event titled *Warehoused: From Refugee Camp to Wilmar, MN*. The event is a collaboration between the Fergus Falls Public Library, Fergus Falls Area College Foundation, School District 544, and the Human Rights Commission. It will be held Thursday, March 8, 2018 from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. at Legacy Hall at MState. The film license also allows for showing in public school classes.

The evening will begin with the showing of the 1 hour 12 minute documentary *Warehoused*, followed by a moderated discussion, and refreshments. Katelyn continues to work to locate an appropriate moderator, though she has several excellent possibilities. We will hand out cards before the film for attendees to write questions for the moderated discussion and collect the cards after the film. Katelyn has a link to a preview copy of the film for viewing by the committee.

The grant includes money for graphic design of the event poster. Current plans for promoting the event include posters and fliers throughout Fergus Falls, committee members appearing on local radio programs and the FF Chamber of Commerce show, an April library book club on the book *City of Thorns* written on the same topic, contacting MState humanities or other college class instructors, contacting area service clubs, and advertising on the Park Region electronic sign.

In other business, members unanimously voted to not reschedule monthly meetings if a member is unable to attend.

Meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Secretary pro tem
Deborah Zachmann

Fergus Falls Human Rights Commission Meeting
Wednesday, February 28, 2018
City Council Chamber

Members attending: Michele Anderson, Amanda Whitney, Deborah Zachmann

Michele called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.

Minutes from the January 24, 2018 meeting were approved.

Deb will follow up with Katelyn Boyer regarding whether the HRC committed to contribute financially to the *Warehoused* event. Deb will ask City Finance Director Bill Sonmor how to go about this.

Election of new officers was tabled until the next meeting.

The *Warehoused* event is on Thursday, March 3, 2018 at Legacy Hall at the college. HRC members should come at 6:00 p.m. to greet the audience and pass out cards for questions.

Michele shared a project idea Springboard for the Arts is working on. They have \$1500 to offer small (\$500 – 750) grants for 2-3 local artists to make projects about inclusion and diversity. Springboard would like to partner with the HRC to get the word out. Deb moved to partner with Springboard on the project. The motion was seconded by Amanda and approved. Michele will contact the Mayor for permission to proceed with the project. She will also ask whether HRC needs prior City Council approval before it partners on this or other projects.

Michele presented examples of Welcoming City proclamations given to her by Mindy Christianson. The topic was tabled until a future meeting.

There was a general discussion of the need for and type of specific HRC logo. The topic was tabled until the next meeting.

Meeting Adjourned at 4:57 p.m.

The next HRC meeting will be Wednesday, March 28, 2018 at 4:00 p.m. in the City Council chamber.

Secretary pro tem
Deborah Zachmann