



## AGENDA

Fergus Falls Heritage Preservation Commission  
February 7, 2024 – 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM  
Council Chambers at City Hall

### **Call to order**

1. Approval of minutes from December 6, 2023, and approval of the agenda
2. Discussion
  - a. Welcome New Members
  - b. Election of Officers
3. Old Business
  - a. Downtown Historic District Study updated timeline
4. New Business
5. Adjourn

FERGUS FALLS HERITAGE PRESERVATION COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES  
December 6, 2023

The Fergus Falls Heritage Preservation Commission met on Wednesday, December 6, 2023, at 12:00 PM in the Council Chamber of City Hall. Members present were Chair Chris Schuelke, Lois Josefson, Tom Hintgen, and Brad Sunde. Absent were Jona Brown, Ben Underwood, and Nate Kunde (ex-officio). Staff present: Klara Beck and Jill Hanson.

**Declare Quorum / Open Meeting:**

The meeting was called to order at 12:02 PM.

**Approval of Minutes**

Chair Chris Schuelke opened a discussion of the minutes from September 6, 2023, and the notes from November 1, 2023. It was moved by Tom Hintgen and seconded by Brad Sunde to approve the minutes and notes. Motion passed.

**Downtown Historic District Study Update**

The consultants were here earlier this Fall and are currently working remotely on the report. Klara and Chris will be checking in. Klara stated that we did not hear from the consultants while she was on leave, but that no news is likely good news.

**Update on Potential New Members**

Chair Schuelke stated that Scott DeMartelaere has agreed to become new members of the HPC. Chair Schuelke mentioned that he has approached Paul Nelson about joining the HPC, highlighting Paul's background with historic preservation in other communities he's served. It was noted that we still have one more HPC opening to fill. The HPC thanked Lois Josefson and Tom Hintgen for their years of service on the HPC.

**Discussion of HPC Goals for 2024**

Chair Schuelke opened a discussion on the goals for the HPC in 2024. Goals include finishing the Downtown Historic District Study and figuring out the next steps after it is done and finalizing several local designations that were initially rejected by SHPO. Klara mentioned that doing at least a local designation a year is necessary to make sure that we meet the criteria to keep our CLG status. Lois noted that that would be impossible in smaller communities and was an unreasonable expectation for SHPO to have, and that she'd like to learn more about it. Klara stated that the requirements to keep CLG status are in a handbook on SHPO's website.

Chair Schuelke mentioned the Honeycutt House getting close to tax forfeiture and if there is a possibility the HPC could apply for a grant to purchase and renovate the property if or when it goes into the hands of the county. There was some discussion about the history of Prince Honeycutt and that his legacy is celebrated even outside Fergus Falls.

**Historic Tax Credit Growth and Opportunity Act**

Klara stated that she had a phone call with a representative of a subsidiary of the National Trust for Historic Preservation requesting that the Fergus Falls HPC and Council submit letters of support for updates to the federal historic tax credit program to Congresswoman Michelle Fischbach's office. Fischbach serves on the Tax Writing Committee. A one-pager of the bill's updates was discussed. Lois noted that the dates included in the legislation appeared to be old and suggested that the HPC's letter of support include a statement that those be updated. She also mentioned that insurance requirements have changed to the point that building owners are no longer able to properly insure buildings older than about 1950 and suggested a note be made in the HPC's letter that that issue be explored.

A motion and second were made by Lois Josefson and Tom Hintgen to request the City and HPC support the Historic Tax Credit Growth and Opportunity Act, with comments made on the dates the legislation would be active and in support of studying the insurance issue. Motion passed.

**SHPO**

Klara Beck explained that SHPO is updating their listings of locally and nationally registered properties and has asked the City for help identifying all the properties we have listed. Staff will be sending those in.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:45 PM.

Next meeting will be January 3, 2024 at noon.

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Chair