

FERGUS FALLS HERITAGE PRESERVATION COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES  
August 7, 2024

The Fergus Falls Heritage Preservation Commission met on Wednesday, August 7, 2024, at 12:00 PM in the Council Chambers of City Hall. Members present were Chair Jona Brown, Chris Schuelke, Brad Sunde, and Scott DeMartelaere. Absent were Paul Nelson, Ben Underwood, Lois Josefson, and Wayne Schuett, Planning Commission Ex-officio. Staff present: Klara Beck and Jill Hanson.

**Declare Quorum / Open Meeting:**

The meeting was called to order at 12:00 PM.

**Approval of Minutes**

Chris Schuelke motioned to approve the minutes from July 3, 2024. Seconded by Scott DeMartelaere. Motion passed.

**Preserve MN Conference**

Klara Beck reminded the commission that the PreserveMN Conference would be held September 18-20, 2024, in Red Wing, MN. Scholarships are available to cover registration and lodging, but recipients must attend Thursday and Friday. Attendees are responsible for registration, transportation, and lodging, with costs reimbursed post-conference. Klara will submit scholarship information on behalf of the CLG and emphasized the importance of attending to maintain CLG status.

**Wright Statue**

Klara Beck explained that the HPC could apply for a restoration grant through the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), but the application must be submitted by a nonprofit organization, not the city. The Otter Tail County Historical Society (OTCHS), as a 501(c)(3), would be eligible to submit the application, with Missy Hermes (a DAR member) likely overseeing the process. The grant allows for a request of up to \$10,000.

Klara mentioned she had reached out to consultants regarding the Wright statue but had not received responses. There was discussion about the statue's material—whether it is concrete or limestone. Brad Sunde, whose company, Bradco Restoration, specializes in historic restoration, offered to examine the statue. There was some discussion about ongoing maintenance needs.

Chris Schuelke moved, and Scott DeMartelaere seconded, to have OTCHS apply for the DAR grant and hire Bradco Restoration for consulting work on the Wright statue. Brad Sunde abstained. Motion passed.

**Downtown Historic District Study**

Klara Beck explained that a draft survey report, table of inventoried properties, and draft inventory forms are awaiting final SHPO feedback. Once the feedback is received and any necessary changes are made, Pigeon Consulting will present their findings and documentation to the HPC, allowing the project to be closed out.

**New Business**

Since the HPC had been so helpful identifying a grant and group to perform the Wright Statue work, Klara asked if they had suggestions for the kiosks downtown. Scott DeMartelaere mentioned someone who might be able to do some of the glass work.

Chris Schuelke mentioned there are some broken windows at the RTC. There was discussion about plexiglass on windows.

*Jona Brown*  
Chair