

FERGUS FALLS HERITAGE PRESERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
October 1, 2024

The Fergus Falls Heritage Preservation Commission met on Wednesday, October 1, 2024, at 12:00 PM in the Council Chamber of City Hall. Members present were Chair Jona Brown, Chris Schuelke, Scott DeMartelaere, Ben Underwood, Lois Josefson, and Wayne Schuett Planning Commission Ex-officio. Absent were Paul Nelson and Brad Sunde. Staff present: Klara Beck and Jill Hanson. Others present: Typhanie Schafer, West Central Initiative.

Declare Quorum / Open Meeting:

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

Approval of Minutes

Scott DeMartelaere motioned to approve the minutes from August 7, 2024. Seconded by Chris Schuelke. Motion passed.

Update on Wright Statue Grant Application – Due October 31, 2024 for Spring 2025

Klara Beck stated that she received a quote from Bradco Restoration for the Wright Statue and has requested a revised quote that breaks out the items on the quote for the grant application and list the applicant as the Otter Tail County Historical Society.

Klara 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. Klara stated the grant application is due October 31, 2024. The restoration work would be done in the Spring of 2025 when the funds are released.

Update Downtown Historic District Study

Klara Beck explained we are waiting on SHPO to review the study. The first draft was submitted. However, there was some confusion on who was sending the second draft to SHPO. We thought the consultants were sending it and the consultants thought we were sending it. Klara stated she submitted the second draft to SHPO on September 30, 2024 for review.

PreserveMN Conference

Klara Beck explained the Preserve MN Conference is took place on September 18-20, 2024 in Red Wing, MN. Four members of the HPC attended that conference and highlighted some of the information they learned about. Klara mentioned there are federal funding available to nationally registered historic properties. Chris explained if a property is as a national landmark, it could be eligible for funds under the Save American Landmarks project. There was some discussion about how Phelp's Mill and the Kirkbride could possibility do applications for some funding, but it would require funding to hire a consultant to do the applications. There was some discussions about how Redwing has many history properties and events show casing those properties. It was noted that Redwing and Fergus Falls have a historic connection. Lois shared some information about the main street district workshop she attended at the conference.

Welcome

An introduction was done for Typhanie Schafer. Typhanie stated she is interested in historic preservation and has a background in public history and is a historian.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:40 PM. Next meeting will be November 6, 2024 at noon.

Chair Jona Brown