

VILLAGE OF GRAFTON

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

JULY 29, 2009

The Historic Preservation Commission meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m. by Chairman Ralph Zaun.

Commission members present: Chairman Zaun, Trustee Jim Grant, Trustee David Liss, Commissioners Norb Studelska, Sr. and Matt Zipter

Absent: Commissioners Sepstead and Baer

Staff/Officials present: Mary Kay Buratto, AICP

Others present: Rick Bate 1483 Lake Shore Rd, Gina and Madeline Studelska, 1125 Vienna Court, and Nancy and Lisa Chin, 559 Greenfield Drive

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Trustee Grant, second by Commissioner Zipter, to approve the minutes of the June 24, 2009 Historic Preservation Commission meetings, as presented. Approved unanimously.

HEAR PERSONS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD

None

(Due to the attendance of the Girl Scouts and their leaders, Trustee Liss asked Commissioners if they would agree to take up item #6 next. Commissioners agreed.

REVIEW GIRL SCOUT PROPOSAL FOR SCANNING ONE HUNDRED GLASS NEGATIVES FROM MICHAEL MATTHIES COLLECTION

Mrs. Studelska was asked if the Girl Scouts were ready to begin the scanning of the plates. She stated that the Girl Scouts project has been approved by the Director of Program Quality. She presented a copy of the approved proposal to the Commission. Mrs. Studelska stated that the scanner has not been ordered yet and that her verbal agreement with Michael Matthies to scan some of the glass negatives may be in jeopardy because of the amount of time it is taking for the purchase of the equipment and an agreement regarding the Village's scanning and use of the negatives. He understands that it may be September before an agreement can be finalized and approved and he does not want to wait that long due to his health situation. He also stated that he would be willing to purchase the equipment himself if it would move the work along more quickly.

Commissioners recommended that Planner Buratto order the scanner and software tomorrow and that the Girl Scouts have their permission, even in the absence of any agreement, to use the scanner immediately to complete their project. Because any agreement between the Village and Michael Matthies has nothing to do with the work the Girl Scouts are doing, that agreement will be handled separately by the Village.

Commissioners also conveyed to Mrs. Studelska and Mr. Rick Bates that the Historic Preservation Commission agrees with Mr. Matthies regarding the timeliness of the scanning process and will work to move the entire process along as quickly as possible.

Chairman Zaun asked the committee if there was a consensus to introduce a resolution to the Village Board on behalf of the Historic Preservation Commission thanking Michael Matthies for his generosity and community spirit in allowing the Village to scan his photographic glass negatives and to maintain the scans as artifacts for the education and edification of the public on the photographic history of Grafton. Commissioners agreed and asked Planner Buratto to prepare such a resolution to go to the Village Board at its upcoming meeting on August 3, 2009.

CONSIDERATION OF FINAL PRESS RELEASE AND PROGRAM FOR THE WALK OF FAME CEREMONY.

Commissioners reviewed the draft and questioned the time the ceremony would be held. After a brief discussion, Commissioners suggested that the ceremony be held at one of the GALA events this year rather than during the Blues Festival because there are so many attendees at the GALA events and the Walk of Fame Ceremony usually only attracts a dozen or so attendees. Trustee Liss will look into holding the ceremony at one of the upcoming GALA events. If it is possible, Planner Buratto will redraft the Press Release to include that information and is authorized by the Commission to release the statement upon review and approval by Village Administrator Darrell Hofland.

DISCUSSION REGARDING INTEGRATING FUTURE WALK OF FAME CEREMONIES WITHIN THE PARAMOUNT BLUES FESTIVAL WITH KRIS RAYMOND

Ms. Raymond did not make it to the meeting, but Planner Buratto informed Commissioners that she had spoken with Ms. Raymond who told her that there were already plans for the time between acts for this year's Blues Festival but that she would be very happy to include the ceremony between acts at upcoming Blues Festivals. She also requested a supply of the Paramount Walking Tour Brochures for her volunteers to hand out during the Blues Festival to be held the weekend of August 20-23, 2009. Commissioners agreed to provide the brochures to her.

Planner Buratto also distributed an e-mail from Angela Mack offering suggestions for future Walk of Fame ceremonies and other ways of promoting historic Grafton.

UPDATE ON CREATION OF CITIZEN COMMITTEE TO ESTABLISH A GRAFTON HISTORY MUSEUM AND EFFORTS TO FIND FUNDING SOURCES FOR CREATING A MUSEUM

Chairman Zaun informed Commissioners that he has been working hard to generate both interest in a fund raising committee and to find someone to lead that effort. Grafton School District Superintendent Jeffrey Pechura has agreed to spearhead the effort and to pull together a group of dedicated members of the community to proceed with the fundraising effort. Melissa Schmitz has also been working at Ralph Zaun's direction to find members for this committee. Ralph will report back to the Commission on the committee's progress.

Trustee Grant suggested that the group that will form consider forming a corporation under IRS 401c3 for purposes of fundraising. He also suggested that the committee take a name with an acronym that identifies the goal of the committee but also makes potential donors stop and think about what the letters mean as a reminder to make a donation.

DISCUSSION OF BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS RECOMMENDATION TO REMOVE THE BRIDGE STREET DAM

Chairman Zaun gave a brief history of the Historic Preservation Commissions efforts to have the Village place the Bridge Street dam on the list of Historic Properties to no avail. Trustee Grant stated that because the Department of Natural Resources has jurisdiction over the dam, the Village will not approve a historic designation because of the concern that it will place a liability for its preservation or removal on the Village.

After some discussion about the real prospects for the removal of the dam, Commissioners stated that the dam and the look of the river upstream of the dam are fixtures in Grafton that people know and look forward to seeing and that the dam adds to the beauty of the area.

It was a consensus of the Commission to ask that the following statement be placed on record at the August 3, 2009 Village Board meeting: "The removal of the Bridge Street dam will be detrimental to the Historic value of Grafton."

AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION MEETING

Items for the next agenda include seeing copies of some of the photographs scanned by the girl scouts, continued discussion of an agreement with Michael Matthies to scan the remainder of the glass negatives, continued discussion of the Bridge Street dam and a discussion with Kris Raymond about including the Walk of Fame ceremony in the 2010 Blues Festival intra-act time slot.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

None.

SET DATE AND TIME FOR NEXT MEETING

THERE WILL BE NO AUGUST MEETING of the historic preservation committee.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 23, 2009 at 6:30 p.m., in the upper level Committee Room at Grafton Village hall.

ADJOURN

Motion by Trustee Grant and seconded by Commissioner Zipter to adjourn at 8:00 p.m. Approved unanimously.