

VILLAGE OF GRAFTON

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

DECEMBER 3, 2009

The Historic Preservation Commission meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Chair Ralph Zaun.

Commission members present: Chair Ralph Zaun, Trustee David Liss, Trustee Jim Grant Commissioners Norb Studelska, Sr., Judy Baer, and Sheldon Sepstead

Absent: Commissioner Matt Zipter

Staff/Officials present: Deborah A. Brown-Administrative Secretary

Others present: Dr. Jeff Pechura-Grafton School District Superintendent, Kris and Peter Raymond

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Trustee Grant, second by Commissioner Baer to approve the minutes of the October 2, 2009, Historic Preservation Commission meeting, as presented. Approved unanimously.

HEAR PERSONS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD

None.

It was the consensus of the members move agenda item 7 forward and to hear from Dr. Jeff Pechura, Superintendent of the Grafton School District, regarding the agenda item for the creation of a citizen committee to establish a Grafton History Museum.

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

Chairman Zaun gave a brief background regarding the creation of a Grafton History Museum. He identified that he would like to move forward on establishing on this important project. He gave an overview of past efforts to obtain a site for the Museum. He expressed his desire for the Historic Preservation Commission to press forward and establish a citizen's committee to start the efforts in the search for this facility.

Chair Zaun introduced Dr. Jeff Pechura - Grafton School District Superintendent to speak on his ideas and interest in this project. Dr. Pechura expressed his interest in this particular project but stated that because of his prior obligations, he would not be able to Chair the Committee; however, he would be happy to be a citizen member of the Committee.

Additional information will be brought forward as this project progresses.

UPDATE ON GIRL SCOUTS' PROJECT TO SCAN GLASS NEGATIVES FROM MICHAEL MATTHIES COLLECTION

Because of the absence of Planner Mary Kay Buratto and Jeanie Studelska, the Commission members were in agreement on tabling this item until the next meeting.

Motion by Commissioner Sepstead, seconded by Chair Zaun, to table agenda item #4 - Update on Girl Scouts Project to scan glass negatives from Michael Matthies Collection until the first meeting in 2010. Approved Unanimously.

PLANNING THE PROGRAM FOR 2010 PARAMOUNT WALK OF FAME CEREMONY

Based on the discussion at the last meeting, Kris and Peter Raymond, Grafton Blues Association, were in attendance and updated the Commission members on the 2010 Paramount Plaza Walk of Fame Ceremony. Kris Raymond stated that the 2010 Blues Festival will take place on September 17 and September 18. Mrs. Raymond also expressed that she would like to handle the Paramount Plaza Walk of Fame ceremony at the beginning of the Paramount Blues Festival. She requested that the Historic Preservation Commission provide her with the names of the 2010 inductees so she can work begin on the ceremony.

The Commission members held a short discussion on the suggestions provided by Mrs. Raymond. Staff will provide Mrs. Raymond with the names of the two 2010 Paramount Plaza Walk of Fame inductees. The members requested that they be updated on the date and time of the inductee ceremony.

The Commission will be provided with an update this project progresses.

REVIEW OF THE 2010 HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION BUDGET

It was the consensus of the Commission to table this agenda item until the return of Planner Buratto in January, 2010

Motion by Trustee Liss, seconded by Commissioner Sepstead to table agenda item #7- Review of the 2010 Historic Preservation Commission Budget until the first meeting in 2010. Approved unanimously.

REVIEW AND DISCUSSION ON PURSUING MUSEUM GRANTS AND GRANTS FOR SCANNING GLASS PLATES

It was the consensus of the Commission to table this agenda until the first meeting in 2010.

Motion by Commissioner Sepstead, seconded by Trustee Grant to table agenda item #8 – Pursuing museum grant and grants for scanning glass plates, until the first meeting in 2010. Approved unanimously.

CONSIDERATION OF 2010 PARAMOUNT PLAZA WALK OF FAME INDUCTEES

Chairman Zaun requested that the Commission Secretary present the two (2) Paramount Walk of Fame inductees for Commission review.

Administrative Secretary Deborah Brown stated that the next highest scoring blues artists on the list are Tommy Johnson and Big Bill Broonzy. These two artists are among many popular blues artists who recorded at the Wisconsin Chair Factory, when it was the home of the New York Recording Laboratories, in the 1920s and 1930s.

A short discussion took place and the Commission members moved forward with the approval of the two proposed Inductees.

Motion by Trustee Liss, seconded by Trustee Grant to approve the nominations for the 2010 Paramount Plaza Walk of Fame inductees, Tommy Johnson and Bill Broonzy, as presented. Approved unanimously.

CONSIDERATION OF BID FOR THE ENGRAVING OF THE PARAMOUNT PLAZA WALK OF FAME PIANO KEYS.

Administrative Secretary Deborah Brown distributed a current proposal from Rock of Ages-Hilgendorf Memorial, Grafton, WI, for the Commissioners' review.

There was minimal discussion on this matter or on the proposal for the engraving of the piano keys.

Motion by Trustee Grant, seconded by Commissioner Baer, to approve the bid proposal, as submitted by Rock of Ages, Hilgendorf Memorials, Grafton, WI, in the amount of \$1,208.00, for the engraving of the 2010 Walk of Fame inductees in the Paramount Plaza Walk of Fame Piano keys. Approved unanimously.

UPDATE ON THE BRIDGE STREET DAM ISSUE

Both Trustee Grant and Trustee Liss updated the Commission members on the Bridge Street Dam. They informed the Commission that the Village Board failed to adopt a dam preservation resolution at a special meeting on November 30; therefore, an advisory referendum will be placed on the ballot for the April 6 Spring election. The referendum will ask the electorate if they are for or against preserving the Bridge Street Dam until at least 2019. A second component will be a question on how any costs that may be incurred to preserve the dam should be paid. Two options will be provided: one will be with general property tax funding and the second will be to charge expenses to Tax Increment District No. 3 – Downtown.

Trustee Grant read the resolution that was presented to the Village Board by the Save the Dam petitioners.

Commissioner Baer requested that the Historic Preservation Commission draft a letter to the Village Board stating the Commission's position on this matter and that it be submitted by the March 1, 2010 Village Board meeting.

A brief discussion took on this matter. Commissioner Baer will compose a letter and present the draft for review at first Commission meeting in 2010.

AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION MEETING

The Commission members requested that the agenda for the first meeting in 2010 include the items tabled at this meeting and well as an update on the citizen committee to establish a Grafton History Museum and funding efforts for the project.

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None.

NEW BUSINESS

Chair Zaun spoke to the Commission members expressing his decision on formally resigning his position as Chair of the Historic Preservation Commission. He stated that is very proud to serve as Chair of this Committee; however, he thinks it is necessary to step down at this time. He also informed the members that he will be celebrating his 89th birthday next week. He stated that this will be his last meeting as Chair of the Historic Preservation Commission. He indicated that he is willing to stay on the Committee as a citizen member.

The Commission members thanked Chair Zaun for all his years of dedication. The next agenda will include an item to elect a new Commission chair.

SET DATE AND TIME FOR NEXT MEETING

Next meeting date is tentatively set for January 21, 2010, at 6:30 p.m. and will be held in the Committee Room at new Village Hall located at 860 Badger Circle. If there is any change to the schedule, the Planning and Development Department will inform the Commission members and confirm a new date.

ADJOURN

Motion by Trustee Grant and seconded by Commissioner Sepstead to adjourn at 7:35 p.m. Approved unanimously.