

**City of Portage
Historic Preservation Commission
Tuesday, May 15, 2012, 6:00 p.m.
Municipal Building, 115 West Pleasant Street
Conference Room One
Minutes**

Members Present: Doug Klapper, Chairperson; Richard Beebe, Marlena Cavanaugh, J. Robert Curtis, Erin Foley, Mary Ann Harding and Destinee Udelhoven

Others Present: Craig Sauer (Daily Register), Bill Welsh (Cable TV)

Members Excused: Stephanie Miller-Lamb

1. Roll call

Klapper called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm

2. Approval of previous minutes

Harding moved to accept the minutes with two changes, both in item 3 in the third bullet point. Should read; The PHPC will provide... and then 'Foley' and Miller-Lamb.... Foley seconded the motion passed 7-0 on call of the roll.

3. Introductions of new members

As the PHPC has two new members it was agreed upon to have each member present introduce themselves to the group.

4. Discussion and possible action on claims

Foley moved to pay the Historic Indian Agency House \$1000.00 to help sponsor their historic themed speaker series, which was approved during our September 20, 2011 meeting and approved in our 2012 budget. Cavanaugh seconded the motion. Passed 6-0 with Udelhoven abstaining on a call of the roll.

Harding moved to pay the Portage Chamber of Commerce \$125.00 for Portage Green to be paid out to the 4 winners of our Architectural Scavenger Hunt, which ran in the Portage Daily Register, as a part of Historic Preservation Month. \$50 Doug Raimer (Portage), \$25 Dennis Raimer (Pardeeville), \$25 Sarah, Nicholas and Cody Santas (Portage), and \$25 Joyce Martin (Pardeeville). Udelhoven seconded the motion which passed 7-0 on a call of the roll.

5. Discussion and possible action on Historic Preservation Commission goals and objectives

Klapper discussed the educational aspect of the Commissions role but that by City ordinance that the Commission was charged with maintaining a Municipal Register. There was much debate on the need to have more properties listed on the Municipal Register and how best to accomplish this goal. Udelhoven suggested each commissioner take a property and walk it through the process over a period of one year. Curtis made mention that there is more to Portage's history than buildings that need to be preserved. As examples, Curtis cited that Goodyear Park was the City's first park, the land donated and to be dedicated as a military memorial. Curtis went on to

explain that until only recently Goodyear Park was not used as a play area and that the schools wouldn't even hold athletic practices in the park and now the City is considering a roadway to cross it. Curtis brought up two separate reports that the City Council should be aware of with regards to the Portage Canal. The 1993 Star Report, which was never released, that was commissioned to help determine the feasibility and viability of a restored canal. The 1998 Haer Report, which may be available at the Portage Library, was from the Corp of Engineers in relation to threat of flooding between the Wisconsin and Fox Rivers. The Haer Report lists various aspects of the economics involved in a rehabilitated canal corridor. Curtis then stated that Portage has the only true levee in the state of Wisconsin. It was concluded that this item should remain on the HPC agenda for June.

6. Discussion and possible action on historic districts

Klapper made mention that there is a sub-committee, made up of Klapper, Miller-Lamb and Foley, working on an updated walking tour guide for the Society Hill Historic District and that we are currently reviewing other guides and hope to have more information at our June meeting. Klapper also informed commission members that Fred Galley was working on a walking tour guide for the Church Hill Historic District. The members discussed the effort that would be needed to have the Common Council adopt a new historic district and it was suggested that we start with getting individual properties onto the Municipal Register from a proposed district first to help build support for a historic district. No action taken.

7. Discussion and possible action on Municipal Register

Much discussion on the importance of building the Municipal Register. Ideas to do so included; picking a proposed historic district and work with individual property owners educating them on why being listed on the Municipal Register is important to their property value, working off of the properties listed on the Wisconsin National Register of Historic Places of which there are 5 sites of the 9 that are listed for Portage, and to work with the property owners that HPC have given quarterly awards to in recognition of their efforts to maintain their properties. This will be a reoccurring item on our agenda.

8. Discussion and possible action on Historic Preservation Month (May) activities

The Commission was reminded of the upcoming event co-sponsored with the Portage Historical Society featuring Jen Davel, a Preservation Architect from the Wisconsin Historical Society. This event is May 23 at 7:00 PM. PHPC will be providing refreshments. Also in conjunction with Historic Preservation Month PHPC had an Architectural Scavenger Hunt of photographs provided by Pat Lamb and Stephanie Miller-Lamb of features found in the Church Hill Historic District.

9. Adjournment

Klapper adjourned the meeting at 7:03 pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Doug Klapper