

**City of Portage
Historic Preservation Commission
Thursday, December 17, 2015, 6:00 p.m.
Municipal Building, 115 West Pleasant Street
Conference Room One
Minutes**

Members Present: Doug Klapper, Chairperson; Kristin Droste, Erin Foley, Gayle Mack, Stephanie Miller-Lamb
Guests Present: Bill Wade (Cable TV)

1. Roll call

Klapper called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

2. Approval of previous meeting minutes

Miller-Lamb moved that the minutes for the meeting of November 11 be approved as written. Mack seconded the motion, which passed unanimously by roll call vote.

3. Discussion and possible action on potential additions to Municipal Register (Feed Mill and Fox River)

Klapper placed these two properties on the agenda for discussion. There is no paperwork for either to add them to the Municipal Register.

Shawn Murphy sent a memo requesting that the HPC take no action on the Mill, which is being purchased for demolition. A discussion ensued over the project, with some commission members afraid that it was too late to do anything to stop a project that will remove the last canal-front buildings of the National Register-designated Portage Industrial Waterfront Historic District. Concern was expressed that the city of Portage was unwilling to include the HPC until there was no hope to save historic buildings or districts slated by the city for destruction.

Earl Rhode of Pardeeville thought placing a section of the Fox River--specifically its bend northward--on the municipal register would certify the river as an important historic waterway. Joe DeRose of the Wisconsin Historical Society suggested a marker near the bend would be more appropriate.

It was suggested that city officials be requested to notify the HPC on all projects that might affect Portage's historic landmarks. Miller-Lamb suggested that HPC agendas regularly include an item for identifying properties that should be added to the Municipal Register.

4. Discussion and possible action on 2015 funds

Droste noted the loss of many old boulevard trees around the city, partly due to street projects. She noted that no replanting has been done. Droste moved that the HPC set aside \$2000 from the 2015 budget to be used for the purchase and planting of trees in the boulevards of the residential historic districts. Klapper seconded the motion, which passed unanimously by roll call vote.

5. Discussion and possible action on claims

No claims were presented.

6. Discussion and possible action on proposed Sign Ordinance

Klapper and Mack presented the HPC's proposed alterations to the Sign Ordinance at the December Planning Commission meeting. They believe the proposals were well received. The Planning Commission will not debate the ordinance until their Jan. 18 meeting. Klapper

will be in attendance that night as a Planning Commission member, and will be able to answer questions.

7. Discussion and possible action on National Heritage Preservation Month

Klapper spoke with Judy Eulberg about giving walking tours during May. She may be willing to put together a walking tour of Silver Lake Cemetery. Miller-Lamb would like to include activities for young people this year. Droste suggested a coloring book similar to the one given out by the Fire Department might be well received. Foley suggested her mother's drawings of historic Portage homes might work for this. Foley also suggested tying in with the grades that study local history, suggesting a school lecture could be sponsored by the Commission.

8. Discussion and possible action on new Commission members

No potential Commission members have been found. To encourage membership, it was suggested that teams of people might share a membership. Foley offered to send a letter to the local paper briefly mentioning the Commission's work, and requesting interested people contact the commission. Foley will share the letter with HPC members prior to sending it.

9. Discussion and possible action on parking lot naming

No action was taken.

10. Adjournment

Chair Klapper adjourned the meeting at 7:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Erin Foley
Secretary