

**Historic Preservation Commission
of the City of Onalaska**

Thursday, January 18, 2018

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1 The Meeting of the Historic Preservation Commission of the City of Onalaska was called to
2 order at 4:10 p.m. on Thursday, January 18, 2018. It was noted that the meeting had been
3 announced and a notice posted at City Hall.

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5 Roll call was taken, with the following members present: Jim Nelson, John Grider, Jerry
6 Sjolander

7

8 Also Present: Planner/Zoning Inspector Katie Aspenson

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10 Excused Absences: Ald. Jerry Every, Sandy Whiteman

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12 **Item 2 – Approval of minutes from the previous meeting**

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14 This item did not appear on the recording.

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16 **Item 3 – Public Input (limited to 3 minutes per individual)**

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18 This item did not appear on the recording.

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20 **Consideration and possible action on the following items:**

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22 **Item 4 – Update on contact made to the following potential properties to become locally**
23 **designated historic structures:**

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- 25 a. Thomas & Mary Thompson House: 414 4th Avenue South;
26 b. Earl M. Page House & Workshop: 423 4th Avenue North; and
27 c. Frank & Sophia Uehling House & Outbuilding: 512 4th Avenue North

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29 Katie said five structures appeared on this list in 2016 – the three that are listed on this agenda,
30 and also Fauver Hill (3015 South Kinney Coulee Road) and the Irving & Alberta Pertsch House
31 (229 2nd Avenue North). Katie said Gundersen Health System intends to demolish Fauver Hill –
32 likely this year – as it cannot be salvaged. Katie also said the Irving Pertsch residence was
33 designated in 2017. Katie noted she had contacted the properties listed under ‘a’, ‘b’ and ‘c’, and
34 she said the owner of the Page residence told her that while he was not interested at this time he
35 was interested in doing so the subsequent year. Katie said the owners of the Uehling residence
36 considered local designation in 2017, but declined doing so at that point. Katie said she told the
37 owners she would reach out to them annually, noting she had sent them a fax sheet explaining
38 what a local designation would do for them. To be specific, it would not harm their property
39 value, nor would it inhibit them from making improvements to their property.

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41 An inquiry was made regarding the Thompson residence.

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Reviewed 1/22/18 by Katie Aspenson

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43 Katie said the property owners declined in 2017, but she also said she can contact them again in
44 the future.

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46 An inquiry was made regarding the property that agreed to becoming locally designated in 2017.

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48 Katie said the Pertzsch residence received a local designation in 2017.

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50 An inquiry was made regarding the Fauver Hill property.

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52 Katie reiterated that Fauver Hill likely will be demolished this year. However, Katie also said
53 Gundersen will salvage the keystone or the cornerstone of the building if it can be located, and
54 any other notable features. Gundersen also likely will attempt to work with the Historical
55 Preservation Society on displaying these features in the library. Katie said Gundersen also has
56 been asked to take photographs and document the exterior prior to demolition.

57
58 Katie was asked if she has the original list, which contained 55 or 60 different properties that
59 possibly could receive local designation.

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61 Katie said she has a copy of the report that listed all the possible structures that potentially could
62 receive not only local designation, but also state and federal designation. Katie said, “Those are
63 the people on this particular list. We have the others, but we’ve been focusing more so on the
64 ones that have the higher on the offhand chance that if they do become locally designated we
65 have the good foundation to take it to the next level to go state and federal. It’s definitely
66 possible that next year when we contact these folks again we can expand that list to people who
67 might not have the ability to go state and federal, but just local.”

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69 **Item 5 – Update on application for the Wisconsin Certified Local Government Historic**
70 **Preservation Subgrant**

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72 Katie said the report that was referred to earlier was the output of the first Wisconsin Certified
73 Local Government Historic Preservation Subgrant. The city hired a historic preservation
74 professional, who did a survey of the community and from that, submitted a list of properties that
75 had the potential of being designated not only on a local level, but also a state and federal level.
76 Katie said Traci Schnell of Heritage Research, LTD categorized her findings and placed it on the
77 website. Katie said Peggy Chaudhry, who owns the Pertzsch property, was asked if she would
78 be interested in attempting to place the Pertzsch house on the state and national register. Katie
79 said Peggy approved of the idea, and thus Katie said she submitted a grant application in autumn
80 2017. Katie said she hopes to learn either in February or March if the application is approved,
81 and she noted the State of Wisconsin Historical Society would fund the grant fully. The city
82 would be able to hire a professional (likely Traci) to write the nomination and submit it on the
83 city’s behalf. If successful, the Pertzsch residence would join the Lumber Baron Inn as the only
84 two structures in the city that have received state and federal designation. Katie said receiving

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85 state and federal designation would allow for more tax incentives for improving the Pertzsch
86 residence. Katie said she believes there is a decent chance the Pertzsch residence will receive
87 state and federal designation given the fact Irving Pertzsch was a former City of Onalaska Mayor
88 who made significant contributions to the community. Katie said the city will contract with
89 Traci if it receives the grant, and Traci will then have a year to complete the process.

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91 **Adjournment**

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93 Motion by Jim Nelson, second by John Grider, to adjourn at 4:25 p.m.

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95 On voice vote, motion carried.

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98 Recorded by:

99

100 Kirk Bey