

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

Thursday, October 20, 2016

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1 The Meeting of the Historic Preservation Commission of the City of Onalaska was called to  
2 order at 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, October 20, 2016. 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: Ald. Harvey Bertrand, Sandy  
6 Whiteman, John Grider, Jim Nelson, Jerry Sjolander, Nancy Tolvstad

7  
8 Also Present: Interim Land Use and Development Director Katie Aspenson

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10 Excused Absence: Gary Lass

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

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14 Motion by Ald. Bertrand, second by John, to approve the minutes from the previous meeting as  
15 printed and on file in the City Clerk’s Office.

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17 On voice vote, motion carried.

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

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21 Ald. Bertrand called three times for anyone wishing to provide public input and closed that  
22 portion of the meeting.

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

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26 **Item 4 – Discussion and Consideration of contacting properties listed in the Survey of  
27 Historic Properties Project to become locally designated historic structures**

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29 Katie referred to a copy of the staff report included in commission members’ packets. The staff  
30 report notes Traci Schnell of Heritage Research, LTD, created a City of Onalaska Survey of  
31 Historic Properties. Katie said Joe DeRose of the Wisconsin Historical Society had given the  
32 commission some “next steps” at its August 11 meeting. One of these steps was to pursue  
33 another Historic Preservation Grant to potentially add some of the eligible properties identified  
34 either to the National Register of Historic Places or the State of Wisconsin Register of Historic  
35 Places. The City declined to pursue another grant at this time, instead choosing to close out the  
36 first grant before pursuing another grant. Katie said the commission likely could pursue another  
37 grant beginning in 2017 if it so chooses.

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39 Ald. Bertrand asked if the same grant would be available.

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41 Katie said it is available every year, adding that the grant has been closed out.

42  
Reviewed 10/21/16 by Katie Aspenson

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43 Katie said she believes a “next step” the commission can take is contacting the property owners  
44 listed in the report and asking them if they wish to become locally designated historic structures.  
45 Katie noted there are five properties listed in the staff report:

46

- 47 • Fauver Hill School, 3015 South Kinney Coulee Road
- 48 • Irving & Alberta Pertzsch House, 229 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue North
- 49 • Earl M. Page House and Workshop, 423 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue North
- 50 • Frank & Sophia Uehling House and Outbuilding, 514 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue North
- 51 • Thomas & Mary Thompson House, 414 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue South

52

53 Katie said if the property owners wish to be formally designated, there must be a public hearing  
54 and the property owners are given the opportunity either to accept or decline the local  
55 designation. Katie noted local designation is done through a volunteer process.

56

57 Katie referred to Chapter 4: Recommendations, which is taken from the Heritage Research, LTD  
58 report, and said seven individual properties out of the 56 that were inventoried and photographed  
59 for the survey could be considered for local designation. Two properties on the list (201 Main  
60 Street and 841 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue Southwest) already are locally designated. Katie asked commission  
61 members if they wish to have her contact the property owners, telling them if they approve a  
62 recommendation to do so it will go before the Common Council on November 8. Katie said she  
63 can send the properties owners literature upon Common Council approval.

64

65 Ald. Bertrand excused himself from the meeting.

66

67 Jerry asked why the Pertzsch house was included.

68

69 Katie said Irving Pertzsch was a former City of Onalaska Mayor and referred to the Heritage  
70 Research, LTD report, which states why the properties listed are historically significant.

71

72 Motion by Jim, second by Sandy, to recommend that Interim Land Use and Development  
73 Director Katie Aspenson notify the property owners of Fauver Hill School (3015 South Kinney  
74 Coulee Road), Irving & Alberta Pertzsch House (229 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue North), Earl M. Page House &  
75 Workshop (423 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue North); Frank & Sophia Uehling House & Outbuilding (512 4<sup>th</sup>  
76 Avenue North), and Thomas & Mary Thompson House (414 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue South) about becoming  
77 locally designated historic structures.

78

79 Katie said she will give them the printout section of the document specific to their property, a  
80 letter from the City of Onalaska Planning Department stating that their property was selected for  
81 potential local designation, literature from the State of Wisconsin, and a copy of the ordinance  
82 that runs the program. Katie said she will meet with the property owners if they are interested,  
83 and she invited commission members to also participate if they so choose. Katie said she

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84 believes a crucial educational component will be to assure property owners they would be  
85 allowed to improve their property with a local designation, citing the example of the Onalaska  
86 State Bank, which has undergone several improvements and is now UnWine'd Wine Bar & Gift  
87 Boutique.

88

89 Jim asked if that topic can be addressed early in the process, stating he believes property owners  
90 are apprehensive about receiving a designation because they are concerned that they then will not  
91 be allowed to make improvements to their property.

92

93 Katie said property owners who wish to participate and invest in their property will be asked to  
94 keep intact what is considered historical.

95

96 A question was asked if other homes will be examined.

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98 Katie said surveys typically last 10 to 20 years and are done once every 10 years. Katie said a  
99 resurvey would be done if the city chose to pursue another grant.

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101 On voice vote, motion carried.

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103 **Adjournment**

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105 Motion by Jim, second by Jerry, to adjourn at 4:19 p.m.

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107 On voice vote, motion carried.

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110 Recorded by:

111

112 Kirk Bey