

Minutes of the Jefferson County Historic Sites Preservation Commission Meeting
Thursday, May 19, 2016, 7:00pm
UWEX Building, Jefferson, WI, Room 12
Jefferson, Wisconsin

Call to Order: A meeting of the Jefferson County Historic Sites Preservation Commission (JCHSPC) was called to order at 7:02pm, presided over by Chairperson Cindy Arbiture.

Attendance: Commission Members: Cindy Arbiture, Robert Birmingham, Julia Ince, John Molinaro, Ed Morse; Absent: James Levy, Michael Opager; Members of the general public: Olive Gross

Compliance with the Open Meetings Law: Arbiture stated that the meeting was in compliance with the open meetings law.

Review of Agenda: The agenda was reviewed with no changes.

Approval of Minutes of Meeting April 21, 2016: The minutes from April 21 were reviewed. Motion made to approve minutes by Morse Ed, seconded by Molinaro. Motion carried by unanimous approval.

Communications:

Arbiture reported communications with Mark Watkins and Joe Nehmer that will be discussed in New Business.

Molinaro stated that the Hoard Museum will be holding an outdoor concert this Saturday at 3:00pm. Molinaro also reported that the Hoard Museum is talking about creating a driving map of the Native American mounds in the area and our commission may want to partner with them on this project. This report was followed by a discussion of where we might be able to list any of our events in the future, including the Wisconsin State Journal, the Wisconsin Tourism Council, etc.

Birmingham reported that there will be archaeological work going on at Aztalan State Park this year and there will be a tour of the work open to the public on June 11 at 2:00pm, with Dr. Sissel Schroeder of the University of Wisconsin-Madison giving a presentation.

As a follow-up from our discussion about promoting our committee's work at our strategic planning meeting in April, Morse reported that Jefferson County just came out with a policy on social media. The policy does not state anything about fundraising through social media. Morse asked Ben Wehmeier, Jefferson County Administrator, about our committee using social media. Wehmeier said there should be no problem concerning this, but should we decide to solicit money via social media in the future, it has to be approved by the county first. Molinaro suggested to add this as a future agenda topic. As a County Board Representative, Ed was asked to report about this issue at our next meeting.

Citizens Comments:

Olive Gross reported that she received a note from Illene Turner, president of the Town of Sullivan Historical Society, about their Memorial Day observance, to be held on Monday, May 30, starting at 9:00am, at the Rome Community Center, with food available at the gymnasium from 10:00 to 1:00pm.

New Business:

Jefferson County Potter's Field, Pauper's Cemetery:

Morse had a chance to talk to Mark Watkins Director Jefferson County Land and Water Conservation Department, which oversees the care of the cemetery, and Watkins stated that he backs our effort to list the cemetery as a county landmark. A discussion was held concerning the process for having our commission list the site as a landmark and what possible signage or other improvements we might consider. It was agreed that we will work first on having the site listed as a county landmark. It was decided that Arbiture will make printed copies of the material we have on the site and Birmingham will get maps of the site and these will both be brought to our next meeting. Mark Watkins said he would try to attend our next meeting in June.

Pohlmann Park Silo, Jefferson County Parks Department

Arbiture reported that we received an email from Joe Nehmer, Jefferson County Parks Department Director, asking our committee to give him some feedback on the silo at Pohlmann Park. The parks department is considering removing the silo to make more room in the existing parking lot. A discussion was held concerning the historical significance of the silo and it was decided to inform Nehmer that our commission wishes to consult with the Wisconsin Historical Society on this matter, then the commission will revisit the issue.

Strategic Planning Session in April with Steve Grabow:

No further discussion was held on this topic.

Updating Our Commission Forms on the Jefferson County Website:

At our April commission meeting it was pointed out that on the Jefferson County website some of the forms relating to our commission are missing parts of the text. At this meeting Molinaro passed out a print-out of the page from the website with the missing text together with new wording. A brief discussion was held and the final wording was agreed upon. Molinaro will update the page and send it back to Arbiture.

Establishing Formal Requirements for Cancelling Our Commission Meetings:

Following our discussion at our April meeting, Arbiture contacted Ben Wehmeier, Jefferson County Administrator and Tammie Jaeger, Jefferson County Administrative Secretary, concerning what formal requirements the county may have for cancelling our meetings. Her request was passed on to Blair Ward of the Jefferson County Corporation Counsel and Ward said that Jefferson County does not have an official meeting cancellation policy and there is no state statute that addresses this issue. He suggested that if we know a few days in advance that the meeting will not be held, then we should let Tammie Jaeger know and the county may send out a cancellation notice.

Recruiting New Board Members:

Molinaro stated that he will be leaving the committee after his term and would like to see if we can start a list of possible candidates that can replace him. Molinaro and others made some suggestions for possible candidates. Arbiture collected the names for future contacts.

Old Business

Legacy Contract Update:

Arbiture reported that there are currently no updates on this contract.

Adding the Wisconsin Historical Society's Architecture and History Inventory (AHI) Database to a Layer of the Jefferson County GIS Map System:

This topic was tabled for a future discussion.

Next Meeting Date: 7:00pm, June 16, 2016, at Bark River Woods Historical Society at the Town Hall Museum, W3087 Green Isle Dr., Hebron, WI.

Future Agenda Items:

Using social media to promote our commission's work
Discussion about crowd-rise fundraising

Adjourn: A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Morse, seconded by Molinaro, meeting adjourned at 8:47pm.

Submission of Meeting Minutes: Minutes of the meeting respectfully submitted by Julia Ince, secretary on May 22, 2016.