

City of Tomah Historic Preservation Commission

June 13, 2024 Tomah City Hall Conference Room, 819 Superior Ave., Tomah, WI
Secretary's Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 5:36 p.m. by president Shawn Zabinski. Present were Zabinski, Jim Weinzatl, John Miles, Deb Chesser, Nellie Pater, John Glynn, and Suzanne Baker-Young.

Copies of the secretary's minutes from the May meeting had been previously distributed to be read. A motion to accept as presented was made by Weinzatl and seconded by Chesser. All ayes, minutes accepted.

A report and discussion on the final proceeds from the Tom Wopat concert fundraiser was held. The board agreed with the totals for expenses and income. Zabinski will have the city treasurer issue a check to the Tomah Area Historical society on Monday, June 17th, for their half of the profits. The account balance excluding the concert was also given.

Discussion held on Creation of a Downtown Historic District. This project should coordinate the Downtown Master Plan and the WSHS guidelines. Zabinski will contact Jason Tish, WSHS SHPO, and see if he is available to advise us at the next meeting. Once a plan is in place, it was suggested that an informational meeting for the public, including business and property owners, be held to explain what a Historic District designation is and how they can/will benefit. All agreed that it should be scheduled for Jason Tish to be present to give the presentation with assistance from the HPC members.

A discussion on the sale and restoration of the Goodyear Office building was held. The current owner is doing restoration with plans on "flipping" it- resale once work is complete. This building has historical

significance in the fact that it was constructed from limestone mined at a Goodyear owned quarry in Jackson County and that the Goodyear Lumber Company played a major role in the founding and early growth of the city. Weinzatl will fill out the paperwork to nominate it as a historic building on the City of Tomah Historic Register. Once that step is completed, it will be nominated to the state and federal registers.

The discussion on training, education and public outreach was held. All agreed that Zabinski should contact Jason Tish to see if he is available to come to the September meeting to advise us on the creation of the historic district and city register. Chesser brought up that the State Historic Preservation conference is being held October 16-18 in Appleton. Information can be found on the WSHS website. Chesser suggested that the HPC consider using some of its funds to subsidize the registration of any HPC members that wish to attend. Weinzatl mentioned that the City Council is discussing changing the traditional 4th of July parade route from Superior Avenue to a side street. As part of Tomah's history, the 4th of July parade has been held on Superior Avenue since the early 1880's. Several HPC members plan on attending the Tuesday city council meeting to voice their opinions.

Future agenda items- Due to busy summer schedules and the logistics of holding a meeting during the Downtown Thursday Nights concerts, members agreed to not meet in July and August. The next meeting will be on September 12.

A motion to adjourn was made by Pater and seconded by Glynn. All ayes, meeting adjourned at 6:19.

Suzanne Baker-Young, Secretary