



Westfield Historical Commission

Minutes for March 25, 2019

Westfield City Hall / Room 315



Present: Commissioners Cindy Gaylord, Carly Bannish, Cindy Bronson, Ellen McEwan

Absent: Commissioners Debbie Oppermann, Amanda Goodheart Parks

Commissioner Gaylord called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

Public Participation: Joe Shibley Owner of Pilgrim Candle Building (Bismarck Hotel) presented to the Commission information about the current status of restoration for the building. He informed the Commission the deed restrictions have received all required signatures. However, the Commission's okay is needed to move forward. He displayed blue prints of current structure and talked about plans to restore back to original design. Phase 1 for this plan was renovation of the front porch. However, Mr. Shibley informed the Commission that the building inspector suggested to rebuild the wheelchair ramp first. This new ramp will be on the cafe side entrance. Future plans involve replacing columns and repainting with original color if possible. At which point he will then bring back to the Commission for approval. Motion to accept exterior rebuild of wheelchair ramp by made by Commissioner McEwan. Commissioner Bannish seconded.

Ann Jeannette Watson attended with family members Tanner and Lindsay Watson. Ann Jeanette's father (Kelso)r owned the property next to the Wyben Schoolhouse. Ann Jeanette's father's house has been torn down to build a new house for her son's family to live in. However, the property size would not allow the size of house to accommodate the large family or a septic tank. If they included the property of the schoolhouse, they would be able to install septic tank size and build a house for their family. The Watsons/Kelsos have an interest in buying the schoolhouse and the property. They have already spoken to various people on the subject but still have questions. What would the expenses be? What are the expectations? What is the timeline to have the schoolhouse restored? The Watsons also expressed that they would do what they can to help with restoration however their own home would be completed first, but also don't want the schoolhouse to stay in current condition. Commissioner Gaylord stated what has already been done and suggested they reach out to historic architecture Chris Carey for a copy of his estimates which he previously gave to the Commission.

Secretary's Report: Commissioner Goodheart Parks submitted minutes from February 2019. Commissioner Bannish made suggestion that members be referred to as commissioners rather than Councilors. Commissioner Gaylord made motion to change from councilor to commissioner in secretary's report. Commissioner Bronson seconded, Councilor McEwan seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Commissioner Bannish, Treasurer reported the following balances:

General Fund: \$2,159.00

Historical Gift Account: \$15,009.42.

G/L Account: No report given from City Auditor this month.

Possible POs from historic gifts funds mentioned for materials for 350th parade float and D2 cleaning agent for Old Burying Ground headstone cleaning.

Mail: Irene Jeppson from Wyoming sent a letter asking for information on Philip Tremain/Tremaine

Unfinished Business:

Sign for Old Burying Ground Gate: Commissioner Bannish took information about size and requirements for sign to be installed at Old Burying Ground. The sign will be approximately 18x18. It will have information of where to get key and reminders that headstones are fragile and to be careful. The sign will also have a protective covering.

Historic Pamphlet for 350th: Tabled due to Councilor Oppermann's absence.

New Business: New Commissioner Suggestions: Commissioner Gaylord brought up potential candidate. Though he lives out of Westfield, he works in Westfield. Commissioner Gaylord will look further into if he could possibly qualify as a member.

350th Committee Update: Commissioner Gaylord shared an update regarding 350th activities including well-attended lectures and merchandise sales. Also updated on the parade float. The "Canal Boat" float is under construction. Also mentioned activities planned for the weekend of May 18-19th. Expressed volunteers needed. Schools have been contacted for those marching in parade. However, permission slips on hold until further details of where to drop off and pick up students participating in parade.

Additional Items of Discussion: Commissioner McEwan made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Bannish seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Upcoming Meeting Dates: April 22, 2019; May 20, 2019

Submitted, Cindy Bronson Commissioner