

**MINUTES of October 11, 2016  
Heritage Preservation Commission  
City of Albert Lea**

**Call to order 5:38pm**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Robert Hoffman  
Tom Larson (Vice Chair)  
Brad Kirchner (Chair)  
Lester Anderson  
Larry Baker Ex-officio

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Larry Fisher  
Tami Staker  
Charles Newell

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Molly Patterson-Lundgren, WSB City Planner  
Jerry Gabrielatos, Assistant City Manager  
Jennifer Nelson, Office Specialist

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Michael Koop, Heritage Preservation Commissions and Certified Local Government (CLG) Programs and CLG Grants, Heritage Preservation Department.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES:**

A motion was made by Tom Larson to approve the agenda and minutes from September 13, 2016, and seconded by Lester Anderson. The agenda and minutes were approved unanimously on a 5-0 roll call vote. *\*Robert Hoffman joined meeting via telephone and arrived at 6:09pm - he was present for the approval of the minutes.*

**PUBLIC HEARING: NONE**

**NEW BUSINESS: NONE**

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**2017 State Preservation Conference – Albert Lea**

The Annual Statewide Historic Preservation Conference has been scheduled for September 13-15, 2017, in Historic Downtown Albert Lea.

Buses will be necessary for the Friday afternoon tours which usually run from 1:00-4:30pm. There may be a need for additional busing for mobile workshops as well.

Michael Koop provided the HPC with the Annual Statewide Preservation Conference Manual and Handbook which was sent via email to all HPC members. He advised this would be helpful to review as the handout covers requirements for the conference including roles and responsibilities.

Larry Baker stated including the Industrial Park and its historical importance within the community would be a worthy topic to cover along with a possible tour.

A tour on the Pelican Breeze may also be an opportunity to highlight the natural history of Albert Lea Lake and Helmer Myre State Park. Al Batt has been contacted and is willing to help out during the conference and has narrated tours on the Pelican Breeze. The park has a known collection of Indian artifacts. This may be a good option for Thursday evening and tickets would need to be sold in advance.  
*\* Pelican Breeze has a 55 person capacity.*

Koop also mentioned an impressive collection of artifacts could be found in Grand Meadow which could possibly be a tour location. Also located in Grand Meadow is Prairie School style architecture building which is a Historical Site.

Brad Kirchner also brought up the idea of having the Bayside Skiers perform Thursday evening on the lake in the Fountain Lake Park area.

Michael Koop also brought up the idea for Thursday to allow attendees to choose their own restaurant/café for lunch. This would take some additional work up front to have a map/menu of places to eat. Eateries could be contacted to see if they would be willing to participate and run a food special for this event. Susie Peterson (Albert Lea Convention & Visitors Bureau) may be able to assist. Koop mentioned on the surveys attendees mention having options available such as vegetarian and gluten free food choices. Molly Patterson-Lundgren stated this could be included in the booklet that will be printed.

The idea of an entrepreneurial panel was brought up. The Marketing Plant has been involved with the Albert Lea Economic Development Agency and creating the Albert Lea Entrepreneur Advancement Program (ALEAP). ALEAP was created by ALDEDA and local leaders to encourage growth of entrepreneurs and small business owners in Freeborn County. Patterson-Lundgren brought up the idea of a panel of business owners who decided to locate in the Downtown Historic District and ask them why and what where/are their challenges and rewards of choosing this location.

Building Official Roger Axel would also be a good addition to the conference to discuss the existing building code and how this can be beneficial to repairs and restoration of historic buildings. This could include a mobile workshop to see real life examples of projects.

Koop brought up the idea of a session which highlights some of the tools Albert Lea has used such as the Broadway Ridge Renewal Grants, street scape project and the small cities grants that has been used to improve the downtown to attract businesses and investment in residential and commercial properties.

Patterson-Lundgren and Koop also discussed the "Upstairs Downtown" session which talks about the residential aspect of downtowns.

Jerry Gabrielatos advised he will take care of mapping out parking for the conference.

Patterson-Lundgren brought up the idea of asking surrounding college students and maybe even high school students involved with preservation to participate in the conference. Brad Kirchner also mentioned a group from Waldorf College will be coming to Albert Lea for a tour of downtown buildings in November. Kirchner will ask if they may be interested in attending the conference.

Discussions and planning will continue until up to the conference dates next year. This may include a separate group that meets during the week to continue conference planning. Koop advised he will be attending future meetings regarding conference planning. Patterson-Lundgren will work out a meeting schedule and send out to the HPC when the dates and times are figured out.

#### **Updating the Historic District**

Brad Kirchner and Tom Larson turned in their updates and Molly will review and put the information together. These updates will continue.

*The HPC would like to acknowledge Doug Johnson and his work in Preservation. His presence will be sorely missed. Doug Johnson, Building Official for the City of Albert Lea passed away Wednesday October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2017. Doug was always willing to take on new challenges which included taking on the duty of the Heritage Preservation Commission. He is remembered for his passion in preservation and treating people kind and his willingness to listen and work with people. He stated in a presentation "being in a historic building always had a special feeling and made the experience seem better."*

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Robert Hoffman and seconded by Tom Larson to adjourn the meeting at 8:02 p.m. Motion approved unanimously 5-0 roll call vote.

Next meeting is scheduled for November 15, 2016 at 5:30 p.m. in the City Council Chambers.

Respectfully submitted,

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Molly Patterson-Lundgren, City Planner

Approved:

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Brad Kirchner, Heritage Preservation Chair