

DIXON HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

CITY HALL
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Minutes of the Commission meeting of June 9, 2014

1. **Call to order.** The meeting was called to order by John McLane in Council Chambers at City Hall at 140p.
2. **Roll call.** Commissioners present were James Higby, Greg Langan, John McLane, and Duane Paulsen. Also in attendance were Mayor Burke and Jeff Reis..
3. **Approval of minutes.** Minutes of the meeting of May 5, 2014 have been distributed electronically, and printed copies have been distributed to all persons present at today's meeting. **Greg Langan moved, and Duane Paulsen seconded, that the minutes be approved as printed and read. Voting Aye: Paulsen, McLane, Langan, and Higby. Voting Nay: None. Motion carried.**

4. Notices and communications.

Several items were included in the Commissioners' meeting agenda packet:

- a. copy of a letter from the Commission, dated May 14, 2014, to Patrick Gorman, President of Lee County Historical Society, wherein the Commission empowered Lee County Historical Society to create a list of sites which best illustrate the history of downtown Dixon, to provide a justification for each selected site, and to suggest wording to include on the historical markers
- b. partial text of an email from Patrick Gorman, President of Lee County Historical Society, to James Higby, Secretary of Dixon Historic Preservation Commission, wherein he summarized the progress by the Society toward that end
- c. a document titled "LCHS List of Historic Dixon Bldgs. in Phase #1 of the Streetscapes Project", wherein were listed eight sites
- d. the same document as above, as edited by James Higby, showing minor error corrections

5. **Public comment.** There were no comments by the public.

6. Old business.

- a. In the interest of concentrating on more urgent business, **James Higby moved, and Greg Langan seconded, that the City Map project be tabled indefinitely. Voting Aye: Langan, McLane, Paulsen, and Higby. Voting Nay: None. Motion carried.**

7. New business.

- a. Consider selection of sites and text of historical markers in the Streetscape project area. Numerous questions were asked and answered, and numerous observations and opinions were aired by all participants. Some examples [to be construed as paraphrase, as opposed to direct quotes]:

Mayor: Some of the signage could take the form of collages.

Higby: Some of the Sanborn maps could be used in a collage which tells the history of the buildings which formerly occupied the block bounded by First Street, Hennepin Avenue, Second Street, and Galena Avenue.

Langan: Pete McKune once did extensive photography of those same buildings before they

were razed. It is not known whether Pete still has the pictures.

Reis: There will be two kiosques in the Streetscaping Project, which might be used for signage.

Various attendees: Signage mounted flush to the ground has several disadvantages - it eventually becomes illegible because of wear, soiling, and weathering, it requires looking downward instead of eye level viewing, it does not lend itself to leisurely inspection by a hurrying shopper, it can be read only by one person at a time.

Reis: If most of the historical markers are to be installed on façades or in greenspaces (of which there will be many), then there is no urgency in the Commission's completing its part of the project. In fact, it may be advantageous to make critical signage decisions once the concrete has cured and the construction machinery and debris have been cleared.

Higby: There is a difference between nostalgia and history.

Mayor: History is what makes a town into a destination.

Mayor Burke furnished copies of an eight-page advertising booklet from Zimmerman Foundries Co., a supplier of custom and specialty plaques in bronze and aluminum, for each member.

At the end of the above discussion, Duane Paulsen moved, and John McLane seconded, that the Commission create a sub-committee consisting of Greg [Langan] and Jim [Higby] to prepare a list of sites to mark and text to include on the markers. Voting Aye: Paulsen, Higby, Langan, and McLane. Voting Nay: None. Motion carried.

8. Adjournment. Greg Langan moved, and Duane Paulsen seconded, that the meeting be adjourned. Voting Aye: McLane, Paulsen, Higby, and Langan. Voting Nay: None. Motion carried, and the meeting was adjourned at 240p.

Respectfully submitted by James Higby, Secretary
Dixon Historic Preservation Commission