

COURTHOUSE AREA NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION
Steering Committee
March 29, 1994

Present: Joyce & Bill Anderson, Frank Council, Linda Muldoon, Mary Beth Laux, Dan Hulbert, Bruce Ladewig, Chris Sager, Ann Sager, Sue Martinson. Meg Casey being unable to attend because of illness, Sue Martinson agreed to be recorder.

1. Minutes of 3/1/94 were approved by group vote; it was decided it is unnecessary to move and second minutes in the future.
2. Historical Committee Reports took the shape of sharing information about individual research. Challenges and problems were discussed, and many solutions offered. Ann distributed the list of the "1994 Ten Most Endangered Historic Properties in Wisconsin," and shared research on individual homes from the State Historical Society. Frank added that we need to make clear to the public that we are not "saved" by this designation.
3. On the Historic Preservation Ordinance front, Mayor DeBroux asked Linda and Frank to submit written positions for distribution to the City Council. Originally, they were asked to speak to the Public Works Committee, but were later informed this was not the group to present their case to. The Mayor apologized and then asked for their written statements. Linda did speak with the Planning Commission and felt it went very well. The Mayor will be appointing a citizen committee in the near future, which will include citizens, one staff member (City of Appleton), and one or more aldermen. This citizen committee will create a Historic Preservation Ordinance for the city. That Ordinance will likely then proceed to the Planning Committee, and on to the Common Council. Frank noted that our alderman, Michael Whitman, had been invited to this evening's meeting, and did not respond to the invitation.
4. Frank spoke with Cathy Arthur regarding incorporation, and it is proceeding. He points out that we can ask for in-kind donations (copy paper, envelopes, printing, etc.) for our group, and that such donations would be greatly appreciated. Bruce asked later if cash contributions could be accepted; Frank will follow up with the lawyers to determine if that is appropriate.
5. Linda spoke with a representative of "Inside the Fox Cities" magazine, and reports they will be happy to print our walking tour map of the area when completed. The Appleton Heritage Society is completing a walking tour map for the downtown at this time. The Society will also be offering workshops at Lawrence during the end of Preservation Week. Linda also reports that Walter Kalata thought we could secure dollars next year for plaques, etc., in regard to our historic status through a Block Grant.

6. Discussion on the role of this Association occurred in regard to the maintenance of properties in the area. Bruce spoke about the poor condition of the oldest house in Appleton, and other violations (building/fire codes) he has witnessed recently in the neighborhood. The problem seemed to be primarily with some rental properties that have been neglected. It was agreed by the committee that we should take action regarding the oldest house in Appleton, specifically. A motion was made and seconded that Frank send a letter to Carol Hauserman, the owner of this property; the letter will offer our help and voice our concern for the fate of this historically significant property. Sue asked if Neighborhood Watch organization techniques had ever been used in the area. Since they have not, she will pursue getting some materials regarding that program.
7. Mary Beth said she had called the City Engineer about the possibility of a parking ramp, and was told there would be citizen involvement before that would take place.
8. Linda reports that she and Sally did not get any assistance from the Historical Society when they arrived for their appointment. They were, however, shown the tax roles, and were allowed to use them.
9. Ann gave additional sources of reference, as per Joe DeRose at the State Historical Society. Some references include: building permits (city), Sanborn Fire Maps (library microfilm--available from reference librarian), Appleton City Directories (library), tax roles (Historical Society by appointment)--also accessible through the Green Bay Research Center at UW-GB (call Debra Anderson @ 414-465-2539), Water Department (city) for sewer connection dates, Post-Crescent (library microfilm), UW-Madison (call Bruce for more info), death dates, and census records (library--except for the 1890 census, which was destroyed by fire). Joseph DeRose will look up the names of any people we send him to see if they are "significant" in the State Historical Society's records. Bruce added that we might issue a news release asking people to submit old photos of homes in the area to aid in our research. This may not only get us more information, but also raise awareness of our plight. Any historical information you have may be submitted to Ann or Linda for compilation.
10. Linda reports that Ken Thiene indicated in their recent conversation that his report would be nearing completion around April 15.
11. The Historical Committee will meet Tuesday, April 5, at 5:30 p.m. at Coventry Glass; all Block Captains are asked to come to this meeting with research in hand. The next meeting of the full Steering Committee will be Tuesday, April 26, at 6 p.m. in the Courthouse Board Room (if the location changes, it will be noted on the agenda).

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