

Sandwich Historical Preservation Committee Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023  
City Council Chambers

1. Call To Order: Chairman Chris Phillips called the meeting to order at 6:56pm.
2. Roll Call: Chair Phillips called the roll. Christian Latham, Chris Schwemlein, Gary Augustine and Jane Wolf were also present, along with Mayor Todd Latham and City Administrator Geoff Penman. Sally Kolb was not present.
3. Pledge of Allegiance: Chair Phillips led the assembled in the Pledge of Allegiance.
4. Approval of the Minutes: Secretary Schwemlein read the minutes of the last meeting of October 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Finding no corrections nor omissions, Chair Phillips asked for a motion accept the minutes as presented. Gary Augustine made the motion, seconded by Jane Wolf. The minutes were unanimously approved.
5. Old Business:  
Historical Marker-Wording/Cost for Marcy Block-Wording: Mayor Latham remarked that the wording for the proposed Marcy Block marker needed further editing to pare down the amount of room needed to fit on the marker. The details are there, but need further editing. Mayor Latham proposes that he, Geoff Penman and Chris Schwemlein might communicate over the holidays on what the content shall be. Gary Augustine asked if there was any more information regarding talks about painting murals on the side of the Marcy Block building from previous meetings? The mayor and Geoff Penman replied that there have been on again, off again discussions while working on a contract, but nothing set in stone. The mayor said that part of the sticking point is “what” to paint for a mural, especially on the north side of the Marcy Block that faces the train tracks for Amtrak passengers to see. Chair Phillips inquired as to who owns the empty lot next to Gene’s Chicken and if anything is proposed for use of that empty space? The mayor replied he is unsure who owns the property at present, having gone through several hands of ownership. Phillips would like to possibly see chairs and a table, maybe a picnic table in that space for downtown visitors and locals to use for rest and/or eating a meal. Christian Latham asked if in the minutes of the last meeting if there was a typo regarding seeking funds from the tourism fund via the city council? It was typed as \$35,000.00 and he wondered if the committee actually only asked for \$3,500/00 for use in manufacturing and setting the Marcy Block marker.

Secretary Schwemlein said that in his minutes he may have erred when placing the comma behind the number 5, instead of in front of it. Jane Wolf replied in her notes that the figure \$35,000.00 was mentioned. Then mayor Latham injected that the figure, \$35,000.00 was the total amount available in the tourism fund at present and that this typo was only a minor matter and was likely misconstrued within the context of the discussion at the last meeting and that we should just move forward. Chair Phillips, getting back to the murals, wondered if the mayor had any particular painter in mind to paint any murals around town. He and Geoff Penman said it might likely be Eulojio Ortega whose local work is well known to the city and residents, but no one has been hired at this point. The mayor stressed that the city needs a concept on paper first on what would look best for the length of the Marcy Block building.

August Adams honorary sign: Chair Phillips handed out two mock signs he made on cardboard, indicating two different versions of what the wording might be and look like for the proposed street sign, in size and content. Also shown on an 8 ½ x 11 document sheet was a version that the streets department came up with. Chair Phillips asked the committee if they had a preference one way or the other on the three versions offered. Jane Wolf added she didn't like the abbreviation DR. (for Drive) at the end of the version on sheet and would prefer a different choice. The word, WAY, as in August Adams Way, appeared to be agreeable to everyone. Christian Latham brought up the idea of using different colored borders on these types of signs in the future to indicate or designate a particular district or setting. It was an idea that many approved of looking into. Chair Phillips will continue working with the city on finalization of a mock-up to present to the committee down the road.

Design Historical Walking Map: Mayor Latham indicated that we now have plenty of historical information on the proposed historical sites to move forward to a concept and layout of the tri-fold brochure discussed. He added that there will be some editing needed. Secretary Schwemlein proposed that he contact Kelly Fehling of the IVVC Graphic Department for her help in getting the concept on paper since she works part time as part of the Nelson Multimedia, Inc. company of WSPY radio where he works. He has worked with her before on a couple of projects in the past and she and the students do great work. The mayor agreed with the offer and Schwemlein hopes to get started with a briefing for her after the holidays.

6. New Business: Banners for Districts. Mayor Latham says he has spoken with a vendor with which the committee can work with, to do a variety of seasonal or special themed banners, if we choose. The mayor suggests we have our own ideas of what those might be at our first meeting of the New Year.

Historical Tours: The mayor says he and his wife were part of an historical tour in Charlotte not that long ago, and is excited to propose we do something similar in Sandwich, especially like a night-time, story telling type of tour about the downtown area that include facts and trivia. The mayor's concept is that of a person dressed in a fashion similar to that of a night watchman of years gone by with a bright lantern to lead the audience around town. The mayor suggests Secretary Schwemlein would be his choice to be that guide. More work to be done on this in the future. No action at this time.

HPC Ordinance: Secretary Schwemlein spoke about a project he has worked on to get an ordinance hammered out befitting the HPC and outlining in detail the powers it should have to protect and preserve any and all historical artifacts it sees fit to save. Members of the committee and the mayor and Mr. Penman were emailed the 20-page document (save for Jane Wolf whose email address Chris did not have) for review, editing and feedback. The idea is for all to look over and decide if there are any omissions that need to be added to said document, or any items in the document that do not serve the committee and its mission, and to delete it. Schwemlein says he hopes that by Spring of 2024 we will have a working document to present to the city council for adoption and use by the committee. The mayor indicated it is good that the HPC have an ordinance in place giving us parameters and powers to go about preserving the local history.

7. Item Recommended to Council for Consideration: none at this time.
8. Audience Comments: None at this time.
9. Adjournment: With no further business to conduct Chair Phillips asked for a motion to adjourn. Secretary Schwemlein made the motion and Gary Augustine seconded the motion to adjourn. The committee unanimously approved to adjourn the December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023 meeting at 7:47pm.