

Minutes from the Highland Historical Commission meeting
Monday, November 25, 2019.

Called to order at 6:30pm by Jacob Rose. Roll call of attendees by Rose:

Commission Members: Jacob Rose, Lynnette Schuepbach, Jeff Menz, John Johnson, Lynn Hargus.

Commission Auxiliary Member: Sara Knobloch.

Reports:

- 1) Pet Milk Factory report – Rose spoke with the company building superintendent at WestRock, the company currently owning the Pet Milk building, and has confirmed that no further demolition is to take place. Reports were that the roof of the office building was collapsing, and the interior was taking water damage. Rose had requested confirmation that the historic façade was to be maintained, and Westrock confirmed this. Can the façade be saved? Certain rules need to be followed to get renovation credits. Alton Box Board occupied the building at one time.
- 2) Schott Brewery – On November 3, 2019, Rose met with Don and Wanda Weder, Highland mayor Joe Michaelis, and several others with development, historic preservation, and investment experiences. The brewery overall itself is in good condition and is currently set with a fire suppression sprinkler system. Large concerns are the several rooms with broken windows. These rooms are accessible and can be saved if undertaken for renovation in the near future. A visitor book is in place for visitors to sign in. The caves below the brewery are in very good condition with the exception of a small broken pipe in one of the side passages. The passages from the caves to the three “Schott houses” are safely closed off. Official confirmation is needed in writing as to the ownership of the tunnels.

While efforts are continuing on a potential development, educating the public about the brewery’s history is advised.

Additional items also discussed.

- Dennis Bugger (who renovated the property at the southeast corner of 6th Street and Cypress) might be interested in reconditioning the brewery as a collaborator.
- A question brought forth without a definitive answer is the use of fundraising and GoFundMe pages to raise funds for purchase and renovations.
- Hard Road Theatre might be interested in utilizing a renovated portion of the back area of the brewery for performances. Brian Knobloch is contact for Hard Road.

At the most recent city council meeting two Highland residents spoke in concern about the condition and the future of the brewery. These concerns were addressed by the commission, and auxiliary.

- 3) Landmarks Committee (Commission Auxiliary) – Sara Knobloch and Karen Mason will help coordinate and research properties. Recruitment of several others is in progress. Published books and discussion with local historians can aide with this.

New Business:

- 1) Board meeting dates for Year 2020 are set for the following Mondays at 6:30pm at the Highland City Hall:

- February 24
- June 22
- August 24
- November 23

2) Election of officers:

- Rose offered self as chair, Menz as secretary. Motion accepted by unanimous voice vote.

3) Review of the Highland Historical Commission ordinance.

- No questions or comments and accepted as written.

4) Objectives for the Year 2020 – Create a list of buildings that may be considered endangered and are of historical or cultural significance. Properties are primarily in Highland but open to specific buildings outside of town. The Highland Historical Society has “local” historical buildings that are plaque, but this designation is different than formal historical properties registered with the government.

Discussion ensued listing a number of homes and commercial buildings that may be considered endangered and may be historical. Properties also include potential future registered landmarks. Properties discussed include:

- Properties on 9th Street between Walnut and Washington Streets,
- Wildi Masonic Lodge,
- The afore mentioned property at 6th Street and Cypress that once housed the Imperial Clock Company,
- The World War II spy house on Pine Street,
- The one-room schoolhouse on Deck’s Prairie (Upon consent and agreement from the Weder Family).
- The Pet Milk building (Owned by Westrock)
- Highland Supply (Upon consent and agreement from of the Weder Family).
- The Louis Latzer Homestead on Old Trenton Road,
- The old Picket Fence building at Broadway and Pine Street,
- The old First National Bank building on the 900 block of Main Street,
- The Eagle Inn at Main and Walnut,
- An all-metal house on Laurel Street, south of 13th Street,
- Older churches in Highland.

Looking at the development of self-guided tours of historic buildings.

Members of the Highland Building and Zoning invited to next meeting to discuss their role with the city and how we can coordinate with them appropriately.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45pm, motioned by Rose and approved by consensus.

Next meeting at 6:30pm, Monday, February 24, 2020 at the Highland City Hall.

Jeff Menz
Secretary
Highland Historical Commission