



CITY OF MERRILL
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMITTEE
AGENDA • WEDNESDAY MAY 17, 2023

Regular Meeting

City Hall Council Chambers

6:00 PM

To attend remotely call 413-418-2264 PIN 741 356 003 #

- I. Call to Order
- II. Approval of previous meeting minutes:
 Consider approval of the April 19, 2023 meeting minutes
- III. General Agenda Items:
 1. Bio for Mother Aniceta from last month's meeting - Information only
 2. Update and continued discussion on Legion Building
 - a. Legion Building story board
 - b. Information from Park & Rec regarding building
 3. Discussion on possible list of contractors for Historic homes and buildings
 4. Continued discussion on sign placement schedule and media coverage
- IV. Next meeting date and time:
 Wednesday, June 21 at 6:00 PM
- V. Public Comment
- VI. Adjournment

**City of Merrill
Historic Preservation Committee
Wednesday, April 19, 2023
City Hall Common Council Chambers**

Historic Preservation Voting Members Present: Chairperson – Michael Caylor,
Aldersperson – Steve Sabatke, Elizabeth McCrank, Bill Heideman and Bea Lebel

Others in attendance included: City Clerk Anderson-Malm, Suzanna Gilk and Sister Pam from the Holy Cross Sisters and Merrill Productions.

I. Call to order

Chair Caylor called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM

II. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes from March 15, 2023

Aldersperson Sabatke made a motion to place the minutes from March 15, 2023 on file.
Elizabeth McCrank seconded and the motion carried.

III. General Agenda Items:

1. Consider request from Holy Cross Sisters for honorary street name for Mother Aniceta Regli:

Suzanna Gilk presented a biography for Mother Aniceta Regli. She built the first hospital in Merrill. The bio will be included in May's agenda packet and will be provided to the committee members for reference.

Sister Pam stated the motto for the Sisters of Holy Cross is "The need of the time is the will of God". Chair Caylor will consult with City Attorney Hayden regarding the ability to include this on the street sign.

Chair Caylor made a motion to approve the honorary street name for Mother Aniceta Way on a portion of O'day Street. Bill Heideman seconded and the motion carried.

2. Status of Legion Building story board:

Chair Caylor spoke with Building Inspector/Zoning Administrator Pagel regarding the story board. Elizabeth will put together a paragraph for the building and contact Darin.

It was suggested this be on the May agenda with a status update from the Park & Recreation Committee regarding the Legion Building.

3. Update on status of remainder of street signs:

Chair Caylor stated all the signs are at the Street Department except for two that are still in production.

4. Discuss sign placement schedule and media coverage:

Chair Caylor mentioned Street Superintendent Bonack is researching ideas for mounting the signs. Chair Caylor mentioned Memorial Day weekend as a tentative

installation day. Chair Caylor will attend the Marketing & Communications meeting April 20th and will discuss marketing this event.

IV. Next meeting date and time:

The next meeting will be Wednesday, May 17 at 6:00 PM

V. Public Comment

Bea Lebel stated one of the issues when this committee was re-formed was the lack of a list of contractors for historical homes and buildings.

Elizabeth McCrank discussed the circle of contractors would need to be expanded further than Merrill. She suggested a campaign to contact the boards of famous public historic homes to find out who worked on restoring the home. Elizabeth stated she will make contacts and report back at the May meeting.

VI. Adjournment

Alderson Sabatke made a motion to adjourn. Elizabeth McCrank seconded and the motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 6:27 PM.

Minutes prepared and submitted by: Lori Anderson-Malm, City Clerk

Mother Aniceta Regli, Procuratrix (1856-1939)

Mother Aniceta was the Superior General of the Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy of the Holy Cross in Ingenbohl, Switzerland from 1906 – 1921. In 1912 she accepted the invitation from Bishop Wehrle for sisters to come to Dickinson, ND. She accepted this mission and additional missions in the USA. After serving a 15-year term, at the age of 66, she arrived in the United States in July 1922 to find a central home for her sisters and establish a novitiate for the formation of the increasing number of young women seeking to become Holy Cross Sisters.

During her first few months in the United States, she visited all the locations where Holy Cross Sisters were serving, considering possible locations for an American central house and a novitiate. In October 1922, while in North Dakota she received an invitation to come to Medford WI, to look at the possibility of staffing a hospital there. She decided that the hospital was “too small to serve as a cradle of a community of sisters with a novitiate close by.”

While in Medford, Mother Aniceta received an invitation to visit Merrill because the city might offer them property and a house to serve as a hospital. Mother Aniceta and her assistant Sister Fabiana Ganter came to meet with Father Prock from St. Francis Xavier Church and the city leaders. They visited Scott Mansion and recognized right away that the Scott Mansion would never do for a hospital, but it would make a good novitiate house.

After negotiations with Bishop Pinton of the Diocese of Superior and the city leaders a plan was proposed to Mother Aniceta. The city would upgrade the mansion and donate it to the sisters to use as their central house and novitiate in exchange for the sisters establishing their novitiate and building and staffing a new hospital.

On October 24, 1923, the mansion was ready for occupancy when Mother Aniceta and nine postulants arrived in Merrill on the morning train from Breese, IL.

Mother Aniceta worked closely with the Building and Finance committee comprised of Fred Heineman, John O'Day, W. B. Chilsen, Harry Heineman, George Gilkey, Charles Bruce, and Adam Schewe. The architects brought the plans to Mother Aniceta on March 7, 1924 for her signature. She took the papers to chapel to ask God's blessing before she would sign them. Upon her return she said that she would sign them in June on the Feast of the Sacred Heart. On June 22, 1925, the building plans were completed, and the laborers began laying the foundation. The cornerstone was laid for the hospital on Sept. 13, 1924. The dedication and open house for the hospital was held on November 12-13, 1926.

During this time of overseeing the construction Mother Aniceta was called to Dickinson ND in February 1926 because of the sudden illness and mysterious death of 5 Holy Cross sisters that worked at St. Joseph Hospital.

After Mother Aniceta completed her two major objectives; (1) to find a central house for the Holy Cross Sisters in the USA, and (2) to establish an American novitiate for the formation of future sisters she decided to return to Switzerland. By the time of her departure in May 1927, the family of Holy Cross Sisters had grown to 59 professed sisters, most from Europe originally, but also five newly professed American-born sisters. There were also 15 young women at varying stages of formation.

The Building and Finance Committee made this statement about Mother Aniceta, “Mother Aniceta is a wonderful person, kind, cheerful, patient, and prudent. She did more in the planning and building of the hospital than anyone else. She sees the need for the smallest things and at the same time has an assurance of the great and mighty things. She is exact and flexible in all things. Her character and her being are appreciated best in the love and honor that will be brought forth in the convent and the hospital. She is simply ‘the mother.’”

After she left Merrill she was superior of the Clinica Quisianana in Rome until two years before her death. She died June 24, 1939 at the age of 83.

Information compiled by Sister Pam Hodgson SCSC from the Archives of the Sisters of Mercy of the Holy Cross, Merrill WI.

Mother
Aniceta
Regli



Sister
Fabiano
Gunter

Mother
Aniceta
Regli

