

## **Fond du Lac County Historical Society Confirmed Action Plan**

The following actions have been confirmed and are an ongoing part of our restructuring plan for the Fond du Lac County Historical Society and Historic Galloway House and Village. These action items are being pursued along with partnerships from local and state organizations.

### **Grant Acquired**

A matching grant opportunity was offered to the Society in regard to transition staffing and funding collections care. Total grant and matching funds were \$50,000, with the City of Fond du Lac providing the match. Professional services, collections care, and internships were included to properly review and reduce the substantial collection. A Transition Director has been hired, and internship opportunities have been communicated.

### **Opening of Grounds**

Grounds were opened for the 2024 season June-August Friday-Sunday based on attendance records. House tours were scheduled on the hour, like Hearthstone Historic House Museum, which worked well and will be continued. Special events were scheduled including the annual Ice Cream Social. The 2025 Season will begin June 6, 11am. The Ice Cream Social is scheduled for August 10.

### **Historic Records**

The Board will further discuss the future location of historic records and working in cooperation with the Fond du Lac Genealogical Society. At this time all records will be retained in the Society's possession but will not be accessible to the general public without an appointment. Volunteers have signed up to sort through the records. The Wisconsin Historical Society has reviewed local government records for potential transfer to the state archives. They also identified a number of local government records from our list that already exist in their holdings. They will personally review the local government records that have been identified for potential transfer prior to making a final decision for inclusion in the state archives.

### **City/County Municipal Building**

Partnerships with Fond du Lac County and City have been established to locate artifacts pertaining to the county's history to the Municipal Building on Macy Street in Fond du Lac. This would include artifacts, artwork, and other items of interest related to local government, projects, and administration. Several display areas and wall space are available for displays. Ownership of transferred property will be discussed and documented including clarification of responsibility for maintenance and care of artifacts.

### **Prairie Theater and Event Center**

Fond du Lac County partnership includes available space for historic records to be manned by volunteers with public hours and exhibit space.

### **Artifact Collection**

The full collection of artifacts maintained by the Society will be reviewed to align with the future vision plan of the Society. Artifact distribution will be handled in a responsible and ethical way to ensure legal obligations and respect for donors are maintained. Covenants, deeds, and donor directives will be reviewed and confirmed before any artifacts are removed from the Society. The collection will be disbursed by means of transfer of ownership, private sale, or other relocation.

Transfer of ownership of artifacts will be reviewed with a focus on the historical perseverance of each item. Priority of consideration for ownership of artifacts will be as follows:

1. Fond du Lac County Historical Society
2. Local historical organizations in the greater Fond du Lac area
3. Historical organizations in the state of Wisconsin outside the Fond du Lac area
4. Wisconsin State Historical Society
5. Educational entities

Private sales of artifacts will be conducted when reasonable and legal, with the funds received being utilized for the preservation of our remaining collection. Some artifacts that are in poor condition or that do not have options for relocation or sale will be considered for disposal.

## **Paid Personnel**

Personnel will be reduced in the off-season. The Events and Operations Manager hours will change with the season as long as financially reasonable. The Groundskeeper role will be maintained until the downsizing of the grounds is completed.

## **Dissolution of the Village**

The grounds and buildings known as “the village” will be recalculated. This includes all buildings, except those being retained, as part of the future vision plan decided on by the Board of Directors. Village buildings are available for relocation. No fee will be charged for buildings being transferred to non-profit organizations and nominal fee for all others. The party seeking to obtain a building will be responsible for all relocation costs and will need to follow responsible practices to move buildings that do not threaten other society property or resources, including full insurance. Policies and procedures must be agreed to and followed. Any buildings with historic designations will be sold with the designation or may be de-listed prior to their removal. If a building cannot be relocated, salvage, demolition or destruction of the building onsite may be necessary.

Buildings not being considered for retention by the society include (but are not limited to) the following:

- |                   |                      |                    |                         |
|-------------------|----------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|
| • Schoolhouse     | • Toy Shop           | • Beauty Shop      | • Adam’s House          |
| • Dress Shop      | • Print Shop         | • Blacksmith Shop  | • Barn                  |
| • Empire Building | • Photography Studio | • Railroad Depot   | • Machine Shop/Windmill |
| • Townhall        | • General Store      | • Soo Line Caboose | • Machine Shed          |
| • Church          | • Veterinary Office  | • Grist Mill       | • CCC Barracks/Statue   |
| • Lawyer’s Office | • Carpenter Shop     | • Firehouse        | • Outhouse              |

## **Redevelopment of Grounds**

Options for redevelopment of the grounds, after the elimination of the buildings not being retained by the society, will be researched in cooperation with our partner organizations. Consultations with real estate developers, city planners, and other interested parties will be sought to determine the potential future uses of the grounds. Research assistance from local title companies has been sought to determine the impact or deed or covenant restrictions on the potential sale of property. Assistance from local government agencies will be solicited when needed to review zoning and survey requirements. Title reports have been received and an initial contact with a developer was positive.

Options for opening the grounds after redevelopment will be decided upon discussion with a developer’s needs, the ability to have restroom facilities available to the public, and the physical ability of the remaining grounds to safely accommodate public admissions and events.