

Brenda Broeske

From: Don Harp
Sent: Monday, March 16, 2026 2:56 PM
To: Ann-Marie Helmbrecht; Daniel J. Meissner; Denis Dougherty; Joe Gaerthofner; Lindsay Thorson; Nancy Peterson
Cc: Amanda K. Abshire; Brenda Broeske; David Kress; Kara J. Homan; Stephanie Lynaugh; Jennifer Stephany; Tom Flick; Tom.Boldt@boldt.com
Subject: RE: Historic Preservation Commission Agenda for Tues. 3-17 at 3:00 pmFrom
Subject Received Categories
Attachments: Re: Houdini Historical Market request

Dear HPC Members,

After speaking with the City Attorney's Office, I wanted to follow up regarding the proposed State historic marker sign text.

We received modified sign text from Jennifer Stephany today (see below in red font), and I'll also distribute that modified language at tomorrow's meeting for the Commission to consider in addition to the initial sign text included in the staff report.

March 16, 2026, proposed modified language:

Born Ehrich Weiss in Budapest, Hungary, Harry Houdini became a world-famous magician and escape artist.

His family immigrated to the United States when he was four years old. They settled in Appleton in 1878. His father, Mayer Samuel Weiss, served as the first rabbi of Appleton's Zion Reform Jewish Congregation.

Throughout his career, Houdini proclaimed Appleton as his hometown. In 1897, he performed at the Appleton Opera House. He challenged the local police and escaped from their handcuffs and a jail cell.

Houdini's career soared after he traveled to Europe in 1900, where he performed many daring escapes and stunts. He was also an author, pioneer aviator, silent film star, inventor, and collector.

Appleton proudly remembers its connection to the legendary "Handcuff King."

I was advised that we did not need to amend the agenda. Rather, the motion at the meeting should specify which version of the sign text the Commission intends to approve.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you,

Don Harp
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DEPARTMENT OF
**COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT**

From: Brenda Broeske <Brenda.Broeske@AppletonWI.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, March 10, 2026 10:51 AM

To: David Kress <David.Kress@AppletonWI.gov>; Amanda K. Abshire <Amanda.Abshire@AppletonWI.gov>; Ann-Marie Helmbrecht <ahelmbrecht1@gmail.com>; Brenda Broeske <Brenda.Broeske@AppletonWI.gov>; Daniel J. Meissner <Daniel.Meissner@AppletonWI.gov>; Denis Dougherty <District15@AppletonWI.gov>; Don Harp <Don.Harp@AppletonWI.gov>; Joe Gaerthofner <joe.gaerthofner@nordon.com>; Kara J. Homan <Kara.Homan@AppletonWI.gov>; Lindsay Thorson <lindsaythorson@cardinalrealtywi.com>; Nancy Peterson <npeter9278@peoplepc.com>

Subject: Historic Preservation Commission Agenda for Tues. 3-17 at 3:00 pm

Good morning –

The Historic Preservation Commission Agenda for [Tuesday, March 17 at 3:00 p.m.](#) is available by clicking on the following link:

<https://cityofappleton.legistar.com/MeetingDetail.aspx?ID=1397317&GUID=37BF5C63-3F94-405D-A5BD-45196DEFDE02&Options=info|&Search=>

Please review the materials before next week's meeting.

If you have any questions or concerns, please let us know. Thank you!

Brenda Broeske

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DEPARTMENT OF
**COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT**

Brenda Broeske

From: Jennifer Stephany
Sent: Monday, March 16, 2026 12:47 PM
To: Don Harp; Stephanie Lynaugh
Cc: Tom Flick; Tom. Boldt@boldt. com
Subject: Re: Houdini Historical Market request

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Regarding the Houdini Historical Marker...

I received some suggested edits to the text from Dustin at the History Museum at the Castle and I wanted to share his version of the text before the meeting tomorrow.

Born Ehrich Weiss in Budapest, Hungary, Harry Houdini became a world-famous magician and escape artist.

His family immigrated to the United States when he was four years old. They settled in Appleton in 1878. His father, Mayer Samuel Weiss, served as the first rabbi of Appleton's Zion Reform Jewish Congregation.

Throughout his career, Houdini proclaimed Appleton as his hometown. In 1897, he performed at the Appleton Opera House. He challenged the local police and escaped from their handcuffs and a jail cell.

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I think the suggestions help make it a more accessible read for the public.

Jennifer



Jennifer Stephany

She, Her, Hers

Executive Director, Appleton Downtown, Inc.

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From: Jennifer Stephany
Sent: Thursday, February 26, 2026 4:01 PM
To: Don Harp <don.harp@appletonwi.gov>; Stephanie Lynaugh <stephanie.lynaugh@appletonwi.gov>
Cc: Tom Flick <tom.flick@appletonwi.gov>; Tom. Boldt@boldt. com <Tom.Boldt@boldt.com>
Subject: Houdini Historical Market request

Don, Stephanie, Tom,
Attached is the Houdini Historical Marker request for Houdini Plaza to be submitted to the City of Appleton Historic Preservation Commission.
We are open to other suggestions for locations within the plaza to best fit setbacks and other restrictions.
We will be in attendance at the meeting on March 17th.

Thank you

Jennifer



Jennifer Stephany
She, Her, Hers
Executive Director, Appleton Downtown, Inc.

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