

MINUTES
OF
MOUNT VERNON HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
Wednesday, December 28, 2016

The Historic Preservation Commission met on Wednesday, December 28, 2016. Members present were Leah Rogers, Mary Evans, Sarah Kelley, Caroline Kelly, Robert Murphy, and Guy Booth. Additional persons present were Joel Miller, Cornell College and Nathan Countryman, of the Sun newspaper.

The meeting was held to further consider the design review application for a certificate of appropriateness from Cornell College for the construction of the new Science building. At the last meeting, the Commission requested that Cornell present more specific detail on how a plan to memorialize the two demolished buildings would be incorporated into the landscape and/or interior of the new building. Joel Miller presented two concepts that have been prepared by the college's architect. The Commission reviewed both plans and agreed with Joel Miller that version 2, which had two defined short wall seating areas as being most appropriate. The two proposed structures will be generally in an area that outlines each of the two houses that have been removed. The short walls can be a seating area, as well as the definition of a garden area along 5th Avenue.

Joel indicated that the City of Mount Vernon has approved the landscape/site questions that were still pending. Discussion was held regarding the need for landscaping that would soften the view of the building along 5th Avenue. In particular, landscaping around the parking area was discussed. Joel indicated that the college is committed to having landscaping that does offer screening around the parking area. Motion was made by Guy Booth, seconded by Sarah Kelley to approve a certificate of appropriateness as requested by Cornell College, subject to the college's commitment to provide appropriate plantings along 5th Avenue and around the parking area. The motion was approved.

Joel indicated that the preloading of the construction site has been completed and the contractor is now monitoring the settling of the construction site. This preloading has been done prior to demolition of the two houses. Cornell hopes to initiate construction in March or April of 2017.

Mary Evans gave an update on the continued development of the HPC website. Her committee has met with Scott Cannon, owner of Market Street technologies. He is going to do a review of the current website and after the review, will provide a specific development plan for the website. Mary and Robert Murphy both indicated that Scott had a good grasp of what our commission is trying to accomplish with the website and were in favor of having him proceed. The initial bill for the review of the website is \$270 which the Commission approved for payment. An estimate for the additional costs for the work that needs to be done will be provided by Scott after his review. HPC will need to then determine the best method for raising the funds necessary for the continued development of the website.

Mary also reported that Alice Kurtz has completed the work for development of a curriculum for the school district that encompasses Mount Vernon history. Ms. Kurtz submitted a bill for \$500 for her curriculum development work. This bill has previously

been approved. Mary also indicated that she was going to be spending \$99.50 for archival storage material from Gaylord Archival. She also will be purchasing three large plastic tubs to be used in temporary holding bins for some material as it is being placed into other storage. She also indicated there was a bill payable to Greg Hill for his help with working on the archive material in our storage area.

It was announced that the name of Suzette Astley has been submitted to the City Council for appointment to HPC. Her application will be considered at the next City Council meeting. Suzette is a professor at Cornell College, who teaches in the psychology department. She owns a home in the Ash Park District.

It was determined that we will not have a meeting for the month of January unless there is a design review request that needs to be considered. If there is the need for a meeting, Leah will contact the members of the Commission.

Respectfully Submitted,

Guy Booth, Secretary