

MINUTES
OF
MOUNT VERNON HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
Saturday, January 9, 2016

The Historic Preservation Commission met on January 9, 2016 at 9:15 a.m. present were Sarah Kelly, Leah Rogers, Dick Thomas, Susan Hargas, Hugh Lifson, Ed Sauter, Mary Evans, and Guy Booth. Upon motion made by Sarah Kelly, seconded by Hugh Lifson, Minutes of the December 5, 2015 meeting were approved.

Dick Thomas reports that the Commission will meet with the City Council at a work session on February 15, 2016. This will take place at City Hall at 6:30 p.m. This will be an opportunity for the Commission to define its role for the City Council. We will provide material to the council so there is a thorough understanding of the Commission being a certified local government unit which has been set up by the City. We will also show what the ongoing mission of the Commission has been.

Leah Rogers indicates she is preparing the Annual Reports, both for the State and for the park service. She checked with the members to determine if all of the biographical information needed for the report was correct.

Dick Thomas gave an update on the contract for the hosting of the HPC website. We have entered into a three-year contract with host monster. Dick has prepaid the hosting fee and will need to be reimbursed for the expense. Upon motion made by Hugh Lifson and seconded by Sarah Kelly, the Commission requests the City to reimburse Dick for the advanced payment he has made on behalf of the Commission.

Various project reports were made. The Micky Woods Mural is ready to be installed at City Hall. Before it can be done, the architectural history photo boards will need to be taken down. They will be displayed at the 1st Street building. Rick Elliot has indicated he will build a wall where the photo boards can be placed. Following the meeting, the commission members will go to City Hall and take the photo boards down and transport them to the 1st Street building. The City will then work with Ed Sauter and Jim Englebrecht on the installation of the mural in the City Council chambers.

A discussion regarding the HPC website indicates that there are several areas of work that need to be done. First, it could be helpful to provide more information on the City of Mount Vernon website to direct people to information on the HPC website. This can be accomplished by having more information at the link to HPC. Sarah Kelly reported on the difficulty of the lack of uniformity on tagging photographs regarding addresses and dates. She suggests that we print the protocol for identifying addresses so there will be consistency in identifying photographs. Sarah will continue working on this project. Mary Evans reported that she has been working with the bicentennial report and is nearing completion. There will be a photo and a card for every structure in town. Mary was complimentary of the work that has previously been accomplished by one of the summer interns.

Dick Thomas talked about finished projects which consist of identifying the outbuildings in town, as well as working on additional historic buildings being added to the national register. Both projects need attention and should become priority items for the Commission.

Dick Thomas talked about his thoughts on reorganization of the Commission. He presented a superb outline of things that needed to be done to reinvigorate the accomplishments of the Commission. A copy of the memo regarding suggestions for reorganization is attached to the Minutes. The Commission feels all of the suggestions are relevant and need to be incorporated into the ongoing work of the Commission. Upon motion by Guy Booth, seconded by Ed Sauter, the Commission approves the recommendations for reorganization as set forth in the Thomas memo. In particular, the Commission will desire to identify members of the community who can volunteer for projects and research for historic preservation. There are many interested people in the community and we should use these resources for identifying projects and working toward completion on projects.

The Commission also moved forward with election of officers. Leah Rogers has indicated she is agreeable to returning as the chair of the Commission. Ed Sauter has agreed to chair the design review process of the Commission. Dick Thomas will serve as the program chair for the Commission. Mary Evans and Sarah Kelly will co-chair the website and resources area of the Commission. The election of these officers and program chairs was approved unanimously. Following adjournment of the meeting, the Commission members went to City Hall and removed the photo boards and transported them to the 1st St. building.

The next scheduled meeting for the Commission is February 6 at 9:15 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Guy Booth, Secretary

SUGGESTIONS – Reorganization of the Historic Preservation Commission (functional system)

Officers and Duties:

CHAIR:

- Prepares agendas and presides at all official meetings
- Represents the Commission in dealing with the City, SHSI, and other affiliated and coordinating groups
- Proposes, monitors and administrates the Commission budget
- Prepares the Annual Report for the State and community
- Prepares grant requests as authorized by the Commission

DESIGN REVIEW ADMINISTRATOR

- Prepares all DR requests for action by the Commission
- Conducts hearings and forwards decision
- Monitors the DR system for needed changes
- Oversees all publications related to the regulations

PROGRAMS CHAIR & Committee

- Maintain lists of Commission-directed project
 - Complete MPD recommendations and up-date
 - New Owners of Historic Homes Reception
 - Out-buildings survey
 - Annual Historic Home Care Seminar
- Proposes programs that advance the mission of the commission
 - New adventures – Cemetery Walk, 30th Anniversary of HPC, Yesterday and Today Photo Shows
- Encourage the use and development of historic resources
 - Workshops on how to use resources

HISTORIC RESOURCES, STEWARDSHIP AND DEVELOPMENT CHAIR & Committee

- Promote the use of HPC Historic Resource
- Monitor and manage the HPC Website
- Curation and Acquisition of Historic Resources
 - o Collections of pictures and glass

Appoint committees: [Non-commission members – working groups]

Local History – (Seniors) – teachers (classroom units)
Ed Fordyce, Mark Benesh, Wolf ? (old families)
Research Group --- projects (Lincoln Highway)
Music Festival, Cemetery Walk