

MINUTES  
OF  
MOUNT VERNON HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION  
Saturday, October 12, 2013

The Historic Preservation Commission met on Saturday, October 12, 2013 at 9:15 a.m. Commission members present included Dick Thomas, Hugh Lifson, Sarah Kelly, Leah Rogers, Janet Budack and Guy Booth.

Minutes of the September 13, 2013 and September 28, 2013 meetings were approved.

Guy Booth gave a report on the status of the demolition ordinance. The City Attorney's office sent a review of the proposed ordinance and issues that were of concern. It appears their review contemplated that this was a "Historic Preservation Commission" ordinance. In fact, this is a City zoning ordinance that compliments the ordinance relating to building permits. Guy will send a letter back to the City Attorney with a response to the concerns that were raised and will see if the ordinance can be ready for review, both by Planning and Zoning and the City Council.

Dick Thomas gave a report on the status of the website. He indicates he is still having difficulty being in contact with Luke. Luke needs to turn over the codes so the website can be managed by the Commission, or someone hired by the Commission to manage and add to the website. Dick will follow up with Luke to get the information transferred.

Dick Thomas and Hugh Lifson reported on the status of the Mickey Woods Mural. Dick has discovered that there may be funds available through the Greater Cedar Rapids Foundation for projects in Linn County. The Linn County fund is designed to deal with projects outside of Cedar Rapids. Dick is in the process of completing the application for a grant, and will be requesting the sum of \$7,700.00 which should cover the fee for the conservator responsible for restoration. Dick indicates that the conservator will be a person who is currently doing work for Bruce more and lives in Milwaukee. He has presented a contract that sets forth the hourly rate, as well as a time schedule. It is felt the restoration can be completed within a six to eight week period after the contract is signed. It has been decided to shift the hiring of the conservator from the person we have previously contacted in Kansas City to the conservator who is already doing work in Linn County. Hugh indicated that there were gifts of \$225 made at the Historic Preservation booth at the art festival.

DeAnn Rexroat of Cornell reviewed the master sign plan for Cornell College. The question arose whether the City Zoning Administrator was going to request a building permit for each sign that Cornell adds, or replaces. It appears that if the City can approve the master plan for signs, that only one building permit will be required. The Commission has previously approved the design of the signs and the master plan. It is hopeful that the Zoning Administrator will not request a separate permit for each sign that is identified on the master plan. The HPC will consider and approve the final master plan when it is submitted to HPC by the Zoning Administrator.

Ed Sauter has sent copies of proposed work at the Right Frame of Mind building. There will be renovation made to the rear of the building. The proposal will greatly enhance the appearance of the back of the building and the Commission appreciates the proposal that is being made. Ed Sauter will continue to work with the owners of the building to finalize the plans.

A question was raised whether or not the work being done on the old IE building on the corner of 1<sup>st</sup> Street and 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue had been pursuant to a building permit. Dick Thomas will check with City Hall.

Dick Thomas indicated that the owners of the house at 210 1<sup>st</sup> St. SE have inquired about gaining national historic registration designation for their house. The house at one time was a hotel. It still has the hotel features in the interior, including brass numbers on doors. Dick indicated that there is a list of properties that were pre-certified as eligible for historic registration designation. We discussed how HPC may be able to help not only the people who have requested information about the old hotel, but any other people whose properties may be on the pre-certified list. Help could come in the form of HPC identifying a person to work on the applications, or setting up a seminar through the State Historic Commission to allow people to move through the application process on their own. Leah will put together a brief summary of steps that need to be taken to have a property become registered, as well as the possible expenses of the process.

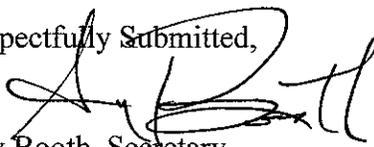
It was mentioned that the fiscal year budgeting process will begin in December. We will attempt to quantify the request we want to make for the next fiscal year budget at the November meeting.

Janet Budack reported on the cemetery project. It appears that Thorsen Company will be hired to do the work. Their estimated expense will be \$9,000 to complete the project. The project will be paid for out of the City budget, but the City wants to have HPC certify that it is a well-designed project.

Leah is going to put together information regarding the proposed window restoration seminar. She will determine the cost, as well as the scheduling of the seminar. The Commission also talked about what might be a good project for the next Heritage Days weekend.

Dick announced the next meeting will be November 2, 2013 at 9:15 a.m. Upon motion made, the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

  
Guy Booth, Secretary