

MINUTES
OF
MOUNT VERNON HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
Saturday, November 3, 2012

The Historic Preservation Commission met on Saturday, November 3, 2012. The meeting was called to order by the Chairperson Kay Johansen. Other members present were Leah Rodgers, Hugh Lifson, Janet Budack, Sue Hargas, Skip Clark, Ed Sauter, Mary Iber, Pat Westerkamp, and Guy Booth.

Dave Krogmann was at the meeting for design review for Lance Dickson. Mr. Dickson was requesting a certificate of appropriateness for window replacements in the building at 114 1st St. SW, Mount Vernon, Iowa which is in the commercial historic district. Mr. Krogmann presented ideas regarding the replacement windows and the how the window openings would be changed. His original thought was that the rounded portion of the window would be removed and be replaced with a solid wood type material. The windows would also be narrowed so that there would be six inches of the wood material around each side of the window.

Concern was expressed regarding making the windows smaller and having so much change in the shape and size of the windows. Mr. Krogmann was expressing concern about putting in more energy efficient windows. The Commission thought that it was important to maintain the look of the arch that is in the windows overlooking 1st Street. The Commission asked Mr. Krogmann to look for windows that will retain the original style of the arched window. He indicates he can do this and will have shop drawings available for the next meeting.

Mr. Krogmann also presented information regarding windows that would be on the west side of the building and the east side of the building. He was advised that windows that he would put in should conform to the windows that have most recently been put in as replacement windows. Finally, he indicates there will need to be a new window on the south side of the building where there are no windows. He was advised that he can use his discretion on the type of window that will be put in. Mr. Krogmann will present drawings of all of the windows for the next meeting to receive final approval.

The Mount Vernon Methodist Church had asked to have a new sign be reviewed for a certificate of appropriateness. No one was present from the church. The application indicates that the configuration of the sign has not been approved by the zoning administrator and the application has been denied. Further, the zoning administrator indicates that the sign is not legal in type or in size for a building in the residential zoning area. There was information that the church desires to appeal the zoning administrators decision to the Board of Adjustment. Hugh Lifson moved and Ed Sauter seconded a motion to table this request for design review. The motion passed. Kay Johansen reminded the commission that a review of a request for certificate of appropriateness is independent of any other actions or review taken by other City boards.

The next item of business was a review of the minutes of the meeting of October 6. Upon motion made by Ed Sauter and seconded by Skip Clark, the minutes were approved.

Guy Booth reported that there has been no response from the City regarding the proposed demolition ordinance. He will contact the mayor to determine if we should request being placed on the City Council agenda to push the consideration of the ordinance by City Council.

There was discussion of our attempt to extend the commercial district. Work is being done on the Chameleon building and the State Historic Commission has requested more detailed information about the building before it indicates whether the building can be added to the historic district. We will need to hire a consultant to do the research necessary to have the building included in the historic district. Leah Rodgers has given us the name of Jennifer Price as a person who is qualified to do the research and help with the proposal. The Commission will request that Ms. Price make a proposal for the work that needs to be done and the cost of the work. This was passed pursuant to a motion made by Ed Sauter and seconded by Hugh Lifson. The motion carried. Leah Rodgers abstained.

There was discussion regarding the current status of the website. Mary Iber indicates that a number of pictures have been scanned and are ready to be placed on the website. These were done by high school students. There were approximately 240 photos that will be placed on the website.

Luke indicates that he is still working on the website to see that pictures are available and that pictures that have not been fully identified will still be available for input from the commission. Mary indicates she will contact Luke to get a better idea of the timeline for moving ahead on the website.

Hugh Lifson asked about articles for the newspaper. This has been a stated goal of the commission to have a "preservation corner" in the paper. Ed Sauter suggested that we get six to eight articles prepared so once the paper is interested in publishing the articles, we know we will have enough available that it will carry us through several months of publication.

Kay Johansen reported that there was an excellent response to the audio tour project. The committee working on the audio tour indicates they are looking for a grant to help defray the cost. It appears the greater Cedar Rapids foundation will be a good resource.

Mary Iber reported that the digitization of the newspaper is moving ahead. All of the newspapers have been microfilmed, so it will be easy to get them digitized and then available on the website. The newspapers begin in the 1800's.

Under new business, Kay indicated that the 2013 budget request will be due December 1. Although there is a suggestion the City would like to have requests for less funding than in previous years, we feel we should make a request at the same level as in

the past, if not for additional funds. Kay will finish the budget request process and keep commissioners informed.

The Commission welcomes Janet Budack as a new member of the Historic Preservation Commission. Janet's credentials are outstanding regarding work she has done in historic preservation, both professionally, personally and through her educational background. City Council will approve her appointment at the November 5 meeting.

Other new business included an announcement from Kay Johansen that she will be resigning from the Commission as of December 31. This means Kay is also resigning as chairperson of the Commission. She indicates that she has information available as to the work that the chairperson does, and she is encouraging all members to consider taking on the position of chairperson. She also indicates there has been discussion on how the workload can be divided so that the chairperson is able to have other people complete certain key areas of the workload.

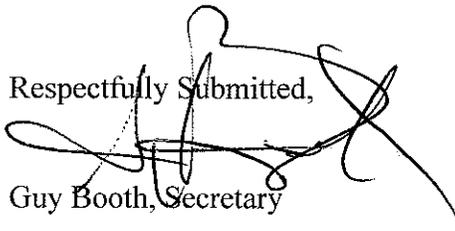
Hugh Lifson announced two issues under new business. The first is that the David Wright house in Phoenix has found a benefactor which will ensure that it will be taken care of in the future. Also, he indicates a Chicago hospital that was designed by Bertram Goldberg is under consideration for major renovation. The question is how the original structure and design can be preserved in any new work done to the building.

It was also announced that "Uptown After Dark" will be held November 8. Tickets are \$20 per person. This will be a great showcase for the apartments that have been built and renovated on the second floor of buildings in the downtown historic district.

The next regular meeting of the Commission is scheduled for December 1, 2012 at 9:15 a.m.

The meeting adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,


Guy Booth, Secretary