

MINUTES  
OF  
MOUNT VERNON HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION  
Saturday, November 7, 2015

The Historic Preservation Commission met on November 7, 2015. The meeting was called to order by Dick Thomas. Members present were Dick Thomas, Mary Evans, Janet Budack, Ed Sauter, Susan Hargas, Leah Rogers and Guy Booth. The review and approval of the Minutes of the last meeting are deferred to the next meeting.

There was no design review scheduled for the meeting. Ed Sauter indicated that a previously approved certificate of appropriateness for the Video Village building has run into a minor problem. The brick facia needs to be reinforced and the columns supporting the front of the building are to be widened. This means the space between the windows will be wider than the original plan by several inches. The overall effect of the windows will be the same.

Janet Budack gave a report on the cemetery project. The project is essentially completed. All records are now in a database, so all of the old record-books will not need to be used in research, or for recording lot information. The city has paid the bill for the completion of digitizing of the records. Janet has notified the newspaper that the project is nearing completion. There are still unidentified gravesites, and research will continue to see if the gravesites can be identified and so it can be determined whose remains are located in the cemetery lots. The Commission wants to thank Judy Lass, who has been instrumental in gathering information for the updating and accuracy of the cemetery records. This has been a project of the Mount Vernon Womens Club and they have done an excellent job.

Dick Thomas gave a report on the Micky Woods mural project. The panels of the mural have been returned to Mount Vernon and are in storage. It has been agreed to by the City that the mural will be placed on the east wall of the City Council chambers. The photo boards that depict the history of Mount Vernon will be taken down and will be on display in the First Street Community Center building. Rick and Trudy Elliott have graciously volunteered to have the photo boards displayed in their building. We still need to find a time to remove the photo boards and prepare the space for the mural. Also, we need to determine who would be available to make the frame and to install the mural. Dick Thomas will continue to lead this project.

It appears the audio tour of Mount Vernon's Historic District, and in particular, the college campus is now going to be available on the internet.

Dick Thomas reports that the website for the Historic Preservation Commission is still in need of work. We feel this should be a priority project for the next year. Sarah Kelly will coordinate adding information to the website, especially information that is in the possession of the City. There are numerous photographs that still need to be added to the website. Dick indicates we need to continue to work on the editing process. This would include having uniformity in descriptions of property and their location and having people be aware of how they can add information to the website, or correct information that is currently on the website. Sarah will learn this process so she can teach the other

members of the commission how to do editing on the website. Dick feels we still need to work on making the website user-friendly and easily accessible.

Guy Booth reported that he will make an attempt to get our proposed demolition ordinance before the City Council after the first of the year. The ordinance has been approved by P&Z, but there was never much interest on the City Council to move ahead with a hearing to adopt the proposed demolition ordinance. It is felt that the new council will be more receptive to looking at the proposed ordinance.

The Commission had a discussion regarding the role of the Historic Preservation Commission. We will be needing new members in the near future, and the Commission will adhere to the rules that indicate a commission member should be a resident of Mount Vernon. People with specific skills needed by the Commission can serve the Commission in an ad hoc or advisory capacity. It is important for the Commission to identify projects that need to be done, and also people in the community that have expertise in the area of the proposed project. Because there is some turnover in the membership of the Commission, it was mentioned that it would be appropriate to have a short list of potential commission members so we can keep them informed of the activities and needs of historic preservation. A letter was sent to all Council members giving information about our HPC.

Leah reported that the budget for the next fiscal year needs to be submitted to City Council in approximately February of 2016. It was proposed that we make a request for \$6,500 for our budget for the next year. This will cover next year's expenses; this year's budget will be used prior to the end of the fiscal year. Dick also indicated that the storage space we have for our documents and exhibits and archival material is restricted. We need a much larger space for the archival storage. The City Council should be aware that this storage area should have air conditioning so that the temperature and humidity of the storage space can be controlled.

The next meeting of the historic commission will be held December 5, 2015 at 9:15 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Guy Booth, Secretary