

MINUTES
OF
MOUNT VERNON HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
Saturday, December 6, 2014

The Historic Preservation Commission met on Saturday, December 6, 2014. Commission members present included Leah Rogers, Ed Sauter, Hugh Lifson, Ashley Anthony, Sara Kelly, Dick Thomas and Guy Booth. Also attending was Francesca Thompson, liaison from the City Council.

Ed Sauter presided at the meeting and asked if there were any corrections or additions to the Minutes of November 1, 2014. Hugh Lifson indicated that he did not want the Minutes to show that our trip to Mason City was to view the Frank Lloyd Wright Hotel, but instead to review the historic nature of the area, including the Frank Lloyd Wright Hotel. Hugh will continue to research plans for the projected trip. He did ask if the suggested cost of staying at the hotel would be prohibitive to members. No one seemed to feel the cost of staying at the hotel would be a problem.

There were no design review requests for today's meeting.

Dick Thomas reported on the progress of the Micky Woods mural restoration. He has not heard back from the conservator, but feels the project may be completed by the end of the year. We have already paid \$4,679.00 on the project, leaving a balance of \$2,821.00 which will come from this year's budget. We do not know if there will be any add-ons because of the work that is being done by the conservator.

We still need to determine where the mural will be located once it is returned to us. Also, we need to make decisions on the framing. It was suggested to visit with Mike Beimer at City Hall to make sure our intended location would be acceptable to the City and would be appropriate for the infrastructure on the wall.

Ed Sauter indicated that the audio walking tour is moving toward completion. The Committee is anticipating having twelve buildings on the initial phase of the tour. They are attempting to identify people who can do the recording of the history of each of the buildings.

Ed Sauter gave a brief update on the commission members/leadership issue. There have been no changes, except Dick Thomas has been able to identify a new member to fill a vacancy of Andrew Mlnyarczek. Paul Waelchle, who is the director of the Cornell/Cole Library is interested in becoming a commission member. This would fit extremely well with our desire to have a close connection with the Cornell archives. We recommend to City Council the approval of Mr. Waelchle as a new member of the Historic Preservation Commission.

Guy Booth indicated that the first review of the Demolition Ordinance will be at the City Council meeting scheduled for December 15, 2014 at 6:30 p.m. This will be a work session review, not a public hearing. It is hoped that the review of the ordinance will provide a good understanding of the need for the ordinance and how it fits into the overall protection of the community.

Dick Thomas reported that we now have full control of the website. We are able to update and change material on the website. It will be an ongoing project to gather information to tag the photographs and information that has been scanned into the website.

Ed Sauter indicated that the cemetery records project has been completed, although it is not available on the City website as yet. The City clerks who work with the cemetery are now able to access the information which alleviates the need for using the printed registers.

It is reported that the videotapes that have been made by Dean Traver over the years that he was in charge of the public access channel are being digitized so they can be preserved. We are not sure of the cost of the project, but we will want to contribute to the costs. The videotapes are of many Mount Vernon public events in the past 25 years, as well as the seminars presented by HPC, and City Council meetings. These tapes will be available on DVD's. We will have to make a further determination whether these DVD's will be accessible through the City website.

Ed Sauter gave a report on the budget requests that needs to be presented to the City Council. It was recommended that we request the same funding as we did last year. However, we will make some adjustments to the line items of the budget.

Under new business, Hugh Lifson asked if there is a picture that is suitable for framing of President Obama's visit to Cornell and Mount Vernon. This was the first time a sitting president has visited the City and the college.

Leah Rogers indicated that she has volunteered to do the annual report to the state Historic Preservation Commission. She will contact members for information that may be needed.

It was also reported that there are a number of documents and other material in the Community Development Group office that belongs to Historic Preservation Commission. It was suggested that we review the material and incorporate it into the archives of HPC.

Sara Kelly indicates that she will be in France for the months of January, February and March, and consequently, is asking for a leave of absence for those three months. The leave of absence was granted.

The next meeting for HPC will be January 10, 2015 at 9:15 a.m. in the Visitor's Center.

Respectfully Submitted,

Guy Booth, Secretary