

MINUTES  
OF  
MOUNT VERNON HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION  
Saturday, December 7, 2013

The Historic Preservation Commission met on Saturday, December 7, 2013 at 9:15 a.m. Commission members present included Leah Rogers, Sue Hargas, Hugh Lifson, Dick Thomas, Ashley Anthony, Ed Sauter, Sarah Kelly, Dianne Osmun, Mary Iber and Guy Booth.

Minutes of the November 2, 2013 meeting were approved pursuant to motion made by Mary Iber and seconded by Sarah Kelly.

There was no design review request for this meeting.

Dick Thomas indicated that the City is in the process of approving a new ordinance on overall design standards, as well as a new light ordinance which affects the commercial areas. Ed Sauter has reviewed the design ordinance and feels it will be important in construction or renovation of buildings in the commercial areas. This design ordinance will not affect the historic districts and will not interfere with the standards used by historic preservation in their design review.

Guy Booth reported that work is still in progress on the Demolition Ordinance. It appears the City is willing to accept citywide jurisdiction for the demolition ordinance. It is hoped the final draft of the ordinance will be done within the next 30 to 60 days.

Dick Thomas indicated that there is continued progress on the website development. Mitch Bloomquist is working on the software program. He is recommending that we consult with a website specialist to select the program that will best provide easy access to the historic preservation material. The program will be maintained by the Historic Preservation Commission. We will determine if there are any expenses beyond the hosting fee for the website and the software.

Regarding the Micky Woods mural, it is anticipated we will receive notice on or about December 15 as to the approval of all or any portion of our grant for funding to be applied to the restoration. Once we have received a response to our grant application, we will then be able to make decisions as to the steps to take to complete the project.

Under old business, Dick Thomas indicated the cemetery records project is now in the City budget and the City will be paying for all of the work to be done in the establishment of the cemetery records so they are accessible without having to use the original City books. The City will be paying for the project and will be responsible for entering into the contract with the company that will do the work.

There was a discussion regarding the archives management. Sarah Kelly will continue to work on the project which is working on organizing the archive areas and in cataloguing and indexing the material that is present. Sarah will contact Dianne Osmun to introduce her to the archive area.

Under new business, Dick and Leah indicated we have not had a response from the State Preservation Summit Conference regarding our proposal for a presentation. The presentation would consist of several topics and the people putting together the agenda for the summit will let us know what information should be presented.

Leah indicated that the budget has been submitted requesting \$6,250 for next year. It was decided not to ask for an increase in funding. Leah has also put together a summary of the work that has been accomplished by the Commission and the substantial amount of funds that have been acquired to complete various projects in the community. This is being presented with our budget request so the council is aware of the work that has been completed by Historic Preservation.

Dick Thomas distributed a list of historic resources eligible for national register listing. Many of the properties are brick buildings in Mount Vernon. We will spend some time to document each of the properties to determine if they are still eligible for the national register listing. This will include photographing the properties and visiting with the owners to determine if there have been any changes since the list was prepared a number of years ago. We will also be able to determine if the owners have an interest in moving toward inclusion on the national register.

Dick indicates that we will attempt to have a student liason from Mount Vernon High School. Dick has been impressed with work that has been done by a high school student and is going to ask if she is willing to serve as a liason, which would be a non-voting position on the commission.

Under new business, Hugh Lifson asked if the Bauman Building work has been completed. Ed Sauter reports that it has been completed. There was also a question as to where we are in developing the plaques for buildings on the historic registry. It is reported that we will continue to work on this as we get through the winter.

The next meeting is scheduled for January 11, 2014 at 9:15 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Guy Booth, Secretary