

MINUTES  
OF  
MOUNT VERNON HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION  
Saturday, February 1, 2014

The Historic Preservation Commission met on Saturday, February 1, 2014 at 9:15 a.m. Commission members present included Leah Rogers, Ashley Anthony, Ed Sauter, Hugh Lifson, Susan Hargas, and Guy Booth.

Minutes of the January 11, 2014 meeting were presented. Upon motion made by Ed Sauter, seconded by Hugh Lifson, the Minutes were approved.

A report was given by Guy Booth indicating that the budget request for the 2014 fiscal year was given preliminary approval by the City Council. The council was very complimentary of the work that has been completed by Historic Preservation and the council appears to have good support for the activities of the commission. Guy also reported on the request for funding of the preservation of the Mount Vernon cemetery records. A summary of the proposal had been presented in writing to the council. Mike Beimer indicated this was a necessary project for the City to fund. Carl Thoresen of the Thoresen Project was present and gave additional information to the council, as well as answered several questions. The council feels that this is an important project to be completed and indicated support for payment of the budget request of approximately \$9,400. The City Council will make final decisions on both budget items within the next two weeks.

Leah Rogers gave an update on the website. We have entered into a two-year contract for the continuation of the domain name. Mitch Bloomquist will be the lead person working on the development of the website. It is hoped that Cornell College Computer Science Department will also be available to lend assistance.

Leah indicates that the state historic preservation conference will be held in Cedar Rapids during the third week of August. We will plan to give a presentation in the several areas that include our website, digitization of the newspapers and work on the study that has been completed for the history of rural Linn County. Dick Thomas also is arranging for a tour of Mount Vernon for conference participants.

We are still awaiting a response from the Greater Cedar Rapids Foundation for our proposed grant to work on the preservation of the Micky Woods Mural. A portion of the grant will be approved, but most likely not our entire request. We will receive official notification in the first week of February. Once we know what amount of money is available, we can then make decisions regarding hiring of the conservator for the project.

Leah indicates that we will need to continue to identify a person to be involved in archive management. The loss of Mary Iber has a profound effect on our own archive work, but also on the archives at Cornell. We will continue to work with Cornell so we are aware of which person may be appointed at the Cornell library as the archivist.

Ed Sauter indicates that the date for the porch tour festival will be September 21, 2014. That is a Sunday. Ed will be working with CDG in promoting the porch tour. Ed

will identify ten to twelve homes with porches for the tour. He will also line up entertainment and informational lectures that will be provided during the tour.

Leah indicates that March 29, 2014 has been selected for the Restoration of Windows seminar. The person presenting the seminar will charge a fee of \$1,000. We will have to determine how this fits into our budget, as part of our overall budget will have to be used if our grant from Greater Cedar Rapids Foundation is not fully funded. This means we will have more expense on the Micky Woods project than anticipated.

Leah indicates that Ed Sauter has prepared an updated list of National Register potential properties. Susan Hargas volunteered to photograph all of the properties as we begin our review to determine if the properties still are in an eligible condition for inclusion on the National Register. We can then contact the property owners.

Under old business, it was decided to check into the possibility of reviving the effort to have information for a walking tour of the college and of the town historic districts by using mobile phones. The college has been leading this project, and Ed will contact the college to see where they are in the process. Also under old business, Susan Hargas indicated that Christmas card and post card sales have resulted in approximately \$100 of income.

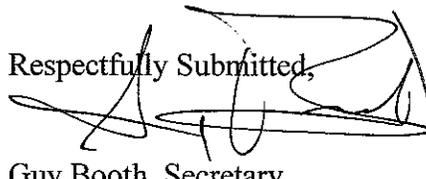
Under new business, Leah indicated she, Dick Thomas and Ed Sauter met with the college master plan consultant. No firm decisions have been made as yet, but as the college intends to expand enrollment and campus facilities, we will need to encourage the college to preserve the historic buildings that are in the college historic district. This includes our interest in what will be happening to Platner House. Hugh Lifson indicates he is concerned about the deteriorating condition of the house and wants to make sure that we bring this to the attention of the college. Upon motion made by Hugh Lifson and seconded by Ashley Anthony, we will send a letter of inquiry to Joel Miller, head of buildings and grounds.

A report was given on the upcoming zip code day. The Mount Vernon zip code is 52314. Consequently, on May 23, 2014 (5-23-14), CDG wants to have a city-wide recognition of zip code day. There is an ad hoc committee that is working on these plans.

Leah Rogers also mentioned that the City infrastructure plans mention the possible widening of 7<sup>th</sup> Street NW. This is a main street through the heart of the Ash Park Historic District. We will attempt to find out what plans the City has and make sure they understand how it could adversely impact the nature of the historic district.

Next meeting will be March 1, 2014 at 9:15 a.m. Leah indicates she will not be at the meeting, so it will be chaired by the vice chairperson. The Meeting adjourned at 10:15 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Guy Booth', written over a horizontal line.

Guy Booth, Secretary