

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

The Historic Preservation Commission met on Saturday, February 7, 2015. Commission members present included Leah Rogers, Hugh Lifson, Ashley Anthony, Dick Thomas, Patty Westerkamp and Guy Booth. Dick Thomas presided at the meeting. The meeting was moved from the Visitor's Center to 224 1<sup>st</sup> St., the First Brick Gallery, because no one had a key for the visitor's center, and City Hall was locked and not available.

At the beginning of the meeting, there was a discussion regarding how businesses who are coming into town will be familiar with the Historic Preservation and sign ordinances. This is also true for people who are purchasing properties in the historic districts. On the business side, it would be helpful to have the CDG office have a summary of regulations that might affect the opening of the business. We believe that in the past, realtors have been aware of the regulations of the historic districts and have had material to give to perspective buyers. We will need to update our information so that people continue to support and adhere to the regulations of the districts.

Leah Rogers indicated she is completing the annual CLG report and will email a copy to people. If she has questions for individual commission members, she will get in touch with them.

Dick Thomas indicated that the Micky Woods mural is about complete, and may be delivered by the end of February. We still need to determine how the mural will be framed, and where the mural will be located. It was decided that several members of the commission will view the City Council chambers to determine where the mural could be placed. They will contact city officials to get their input.

The effort to digitize the Traver tapes is moving forward. There will be a telethon on the weekend of February 21 to raise money for the cost of getting the VHS tapes into a digital format. After the telethon is completed, we will have a better understanding of how much money has been raised, and what the additional costs might be.

Dick Thomas reported that the recordings have been completed for the audio tour, and that the placques for the structures have been ordered. Dick indicated that the information about the buildings has been expanded so there is background about the life within each of the buildings. This audio tour program has been sponsored by the CDG and Cornell College, along with help from Historic Preservation.

Guy Booth indicated that there has been one meeting with the City Council regarding the Demolition Ordinance. The Mayor appointed two members of the Council to meet with two members of Historic Preservation to continue to work on the final language of the ordinance before it is presented for consideration by the Council.

The cemetery records project is moving along. Thorson Company will schedule a training program for the City Hall Clerks so the computer program will be able to keep

good records of the ownership of cemetery lots, and the identification of who is buried in which lots. There is still some identification that needs to take place for both burials and lot ownership.

Hugh Lifson indicated that he is still able to do some pre-planning for a possible trip to Mason City. He will give a report at the next meeting.

Dick Thomas reviewed some items of unfinished business. We still are planning to put together a revision on the multiple properties document to continue to identify buildings that may qualify for the Register of Historic Places. Dick also indicated that the website for HPC is at a point where we need to do a training session to help everybody understand the editing process. This will be set up in the next month or two.

It was reported that a photo history of President Obama's visit to Mount Vernon and Cornell have been found. The press coverage from The Sun will be part of the website for the newspaper. Other documents that we need to take care of include old photographs that are currently at the Visitor's Center. We will remove them from the Visitor's Center and get them into our archive office after they have been reviewed.

Hugh Lifson talked about plans for Chalk the Walk. He discussed a couple of possibilities for his drawing. Dick Thomas suggested doing a drawing of the original train bridge, which was built around 1915. Hugh will explore this as a drawing that could be made.

The next meeting for HPC will be the first Saturday of March, 2015 at 9:15 a.m. in the Visitor's Center.

Respectfully Submitted,

Guy Booth, Secretary