

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

The Historic Preservation Commission met on Saturday, March 1, 2014 at 9:15 a.m. Commission members present included Ed Sauter, Hugh Lifson, Susan Hargas, Dick Thomas, Patty Westerkamp and Guy Booth.

Minutes of the February 1, 2014 meeting were presented and were approved.

Dick Thomas reported that the window preservation seminar to be presented by David Wadsworth is scheduled for March 29 at 9:00 a.m. Dick will contact other area preservation groups to provide notice. We will check to make sure City Hall is available that morning. It was decided to give notice to the Sun so there is publicity for Mount Vernon and Lisbon.

Dick Thomas reported on attending a meeting with Cornell College as they are working on their plans for increasing enrollment at the school. The planning is to determine what new buildings will be needed, the size of the buildings, and the location of the buildings. Cornell hopes to have a preliminary plan determined by May. They will then have several months to solicit input before a final decision is made in the fall. Hugh Lifson indicates we need to encourage Cornell to be sensitive to the historic district and how these changes will affect the district. Dick Thomas will be able to give advice to Cornell regarding any possibility of losing the status of being on the National Register if there is too much change in the make up of the campus buildings.

Leah Rogers has written to Joel Miller, who is head of buildings and grounds at Cornell regarding the condition of Platner House. Joel has contacted Leah and indicates that the college does want to move ahead with preserving the house. Leah has suggested that there could be grants available for work on the exterior of the property and she will continue to consult with Joel to see what may be available. It was positive that Joel responded quickly to the concerns raised by Leah.

Dick Thomas indicates that we have received the check from Greater Cedar Rapids Foundation for the Micky Woods mural restoration. We will be entering into a contract with the conservator. It is possible that this project will get under way this spring.

Dick Thomas reported that our remaining budget will be used in full by the end of the fiscal year. Leah had discussed with Sue Ripke at City Hall how we can identify income that is produced by HPC. This would be in terms of sale of items, as well as grants that have been awarded to HPC. The City requests that we identify the project to which the money should be applied, so we do not have to have it relate to the budgeted amount awarded to HPC by the City. Upon motion made by Hugh Lifson and seconded by Sue Hargas, all future income raised by HPC will be deposited with the City as earmarked funds.

The cemetery records project was discussed. It appears the City will be funding the entire project. It is decided that we will continue to oversee the project to make sure that it gets under way and is completed in a timely manner.

Guy Booth reported that the demolition ordinance is in the final stage of review with the demolition committee. The next meeting will be March 3, 2014. It is hoped that the final draft will be forwarded to Planning and Zoning after the meeting.

Hugh Lifson reported on the community celebration of "zip code day." The Mount Vernon zip code is 52314, so on May 23, 2014 there will be a celebration. Joe Jennison of CDG is in charge of planning the event. There is discussion of putting together a time capsule. Hugh will check with the newspaper to see if he can request that anybody who has an idea about what items should be in a time capsule should contact Joe Jennison.

Ed Sauter indicates that the Mount Vernon porch tour will be held September 21, 2014. He is working with several people to put together the program for that day.

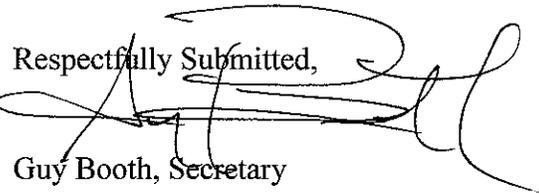
There was no new material regarding archive management or the National Registration of potential properties.

Dick Thomas indicated that we have filed the CLG Annual Report, and have been complimented by the state historic commission indicating that we do a better job of timely filing than most any other preservation commissions. It was suggested that we send a copy of this year's report to each of the commissioners.

Under old business, Hugh Lifson asked about looking for better cooperation from the newspaper regarding publishing information about historic preservation.

Under new business, Hugh indicates he is going to start working on planning for a trip to LeClaire, Iowa. He also indicated that he is planning on doing a drawing for Chalk the Walk. He is thinking of using a theme of the first world war, which began in 1914, therefore he feels the 100-year anniversary could be the theme of his drawing.

The next meeting of the commission is scheduled for April 5, 2014 at 9:15 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Guy Booth, Secretary