

MINUTES
OF
MOUNT VERNON HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
Saturday, March 2, 2013

The Historic Preservation Commission met on Saturday, March 2, 2013. The meeting was called to order by Dick Thomas. Present were Dick Thomas, Hugh Lifson, Pat Westerkamp, Ed Sauter, Leah Rogers, Mary Iber, Sue Hargus, and Guy Booth. The Minutes from the meeting of February 2, 2013 were reviewed. Mary Iber requested that the Minutes show that the Sun contributed \$200 toward the digitization effort, as well as providing all of the material and assistance in getting the papers prepared for digitization. The Minutes were approved as amended.

There was no design review scheduled for this meeting. Ed Sauter has prepared a spread sheet to help in the understanding of the process of design review.

Judy Lass, who is Chairman of the Woman's Club Cemetery Committee gave a report on the work that has been done by the Mount Vernon-Lisbon Woman's Club over the last three and a half years. Their membership has done a remarkable job of documenting grave sites and creating a database of graves of Civil War Veterans. They have worked with Mount Vernon City Hall to look through the cemetery books which date back to the early 1840's. The two ledger books are hand recorded and show the transfer of all of the plots in the cemetery. These ledgers are still being used for entry of this information. Judy describes the books as being invaluable regarding the personal information that is entered along with information of ownership and who is buried in the various lots.

Judy also gave a report on the condition of the grave markers. She indicates a number of these markers have deteriorated and are broken. Some have been overrun with grass, and the group has done substantial work to clean the stones and to remove debris. She also indicated that the mausoleum has shown some deterioration of the marble. Two windows have been broken, but have had temporary repair made by volunteers.

It is agreed that the ledger books should be copied and digitized so that this information is available on our website. Further, if the original ledgers are copied, then perhaps these old ledgers won't have to be used on a daily basis, thus helping preserve them. Dick Thomas indicated that we should be able to work with the City on preserving the ledgers, as well as developing a policy on the use of the records. We will inquire as to what grants may be available to help fund the expenses of preserving the records. Hugh Lifson made a motion to congratulate and recognize the Woman's Club for the substantial work they have done. The motion was seconded by Ed Sauter and the motion passed. Ed Sauter moved that HPC establish a committee to address the issues raised by Judy Lass, which includes preservation of the ledgers, updating our website with the cemetery information, work on digitizing the records, and working on devising a policy for the use of the City records. The motion was seconded by Sue Hargus and the motion passed. It is proposed that the membership of this committee include citizens from the

community, as there is expertise in the community that can help work toward the goals of preserving the records of the cemetery.

Ed Sauter reported that he has talked with Jake Krob at the Sun and he encouraged Ed regarding the publication of newspaper articles. Ed will work with the Sun to establish a schedule for the articles and to determine the space limitations.

Ed also reported on the progress of the audio tours. Because the pedestal and plaque for each building will run in excess of \$200, Ed is researching grant possibilities. He suggested that the actual labor for constructing the pedestals could be volunteer work. He also suggested that the plaques that will be on buildings in the downtown historic district should probably be brass and could be attached directly to the buildings. He will continue working to bring this project to completion.

Guy Booth indicated that neither the City nor Planning and Zoning have replied to his recent letter regarding the demolition ordinance. He indicates that he will continue to push for a response.

Mary Iber indicated that the website for the digitized copies of the newspaper is just about complete. She brought the website up on her computer to show how it looks when you go online. There still are some problems in getting the best browser to bring up all of the information. We have not made this information available to the public as yet, as we want to make sure it is easily accessible to the public. The website for the information presently is mountvernon.advantage-preservation.com. It was suggested that a demonstration of the website might be presented during Heritage Days.

Dick Thomas distributed a list of duties that the chairman of the commission has had in the past. It is clear that Kay Johansen did substantial work in all of the areas. The commission feels these duties should be divided so that the workload for the chair does not become overwhelming. We will continue to review the list of jobs that need to be completed and determine how these can be divided among the various commissioners.

Leah Rogers indicates that the Commercial District review work is being done. It is hoped that all of the photographs can be taken as soon as snow has melted.

Under old business, Hugh Lifson gave a report on the proposed artwork that he and Susan Hargus will do at Chalk the Walk. It will be a picture related to the Civil War 150 year Centennial Celebration. Hugh also read from letters from Taylor Pierce and Kathrine Pierce from 1863 and 1865 discussing Civil War issues, and especially the Emancipation Proclamation. Hugh feels a reading of the letters by persons dressed in character would be a good event for Heritage Days. Dick Thomas indicates there should be no problem finding two people to portray Taylor and Kathrine Pierce and read the letters. Dick Thomas indicated that he had contacted Judy Stine to see if a brass group could be available to play some of the Civil War tunes that would have been popular.

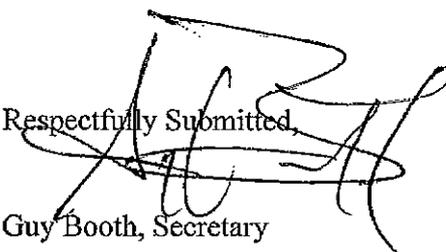
Hugh Lifson indicated that he is still thinking about the LeClaire trip and would like to discuss the planning of it at our May meeting.

Attached to the Minutes is a copy of the report prepared by Judy Lass on behalf of the Woman's Club Cemetery Committee.

The next meeting of HPC is scheduled for April 6, 2013 at 9:15 a.m.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,


Guy Booth, Secretary