

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

The Historic Preservation Commission met on Saturday, March 7, 2015. Commission members present included Leah Rogers, Hugh Lifson, Ashley Anthony, Dick Thomas, Patty Westerkamp, Ed Sauter and Guy Booth. Dick Thomas presided at the meeting.

The Minutes of the February 7, 2015 meeting were considered for approval. Hugh Lifson asked that the Minutes be supplemented to indicate that he will be doing his annual mondonari artwork during Chalk the Walk. He has not made a final decision on the subject of his work for that weekend, but it may be the old railroad bridge on the west side of Mount Vernon.

The Commission had two design review applications. The first was the demolition and reconstruction of a back porch at the Andy Wolfe residence on 7th Ave. NW. Andy had met with the Commission for a pre-review last fall. His final plans include an extension of the pent roof along the west side of the house, where it will continue along the top of the new porch that will be constructed. This gives continuity to the pent roof that runs along three sides of the house. Robert Steinbronn attended with Andy to show the plan for the new porch addition. Upon motion made by Hugh Lifson and seconded by Leah Rogers, the Commission approved a certificate of appropriateness for the project.

The second design review application was presented by Guppy's on the Go, a convenience store which is located in the Cornell Historic District. Their application requested an addition on the building that would provide more interior storage space for the business. The addition does not substantially change the style or nature of the building, which is a non-conforming building in the district.

Upon motion by Hugh Lifson, seconded by Ed Sauter, the commission approved the application as having no material effect on the historic district.

Leah Rogers indicates she has completed the draft of the Annual Report to be submitted to the State Historic Commission. She will send it out to the commission members for input before it is finalized.

Dick Thomas indicated that the City Council has approved the Historic Preservation Commission budget for the next fiscal year. It will be a goal of the Commission to have an intern for the summer that can work on the Historic Preservation website. Hopefully, they will be able to work with the archivist at Cornell College.

Ed Sauter reported that the audio tour project is complete, except for installation of plaques. Also, he reports that we may be short on funds for completion of the project. Upon motion made by Leah Rogers, seconded by Hugh Lifson, the Commission approved additional funding for the project not to exceed \$500.00.

Under old business, Hugh Lifson reported that he is still working on details for the trip to Mason City. He has contacted the Park Hotel to see what special rates may be available. Hugh will contact either the CDG, and/or the Lisbon Historic Commission to see if any members would like to join the trip. A special rate may be available if there are ten rooms that are rented by the group.

Hugh Lifson also reported that Rod Kruse was selected as an architect of the year. Mr. Kruse has done some work at Cornell, but his contributions have been controversial.

Leah Rogers indicates that the fundraising effort for saving the videotapes produced by Mr. Traver raised over \$6,000. This will be enough to transfer all of the video tapes to DVD's, except for those that are in relatively poor condition. A second effort will need to be made to determine how to make these digitized copies available for the public, either for purchase, or through our website.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 to be moved to the computer lab at the Cornell College library. Brooke Bergantzel, of the computer science department and who is also an archivist at the library, hosted members of the Commission so we could learn more about how to enter information about the archival material that is on the website. Brooke gave an extremely helpful seminar. We hope that Brooke will be able to work with our summer intern to continue to clean the information on the website and to add additional archival information. Brooke indicates that the program that we are using for our website is through Omeka. They work with other cities and historic groups, and it appears to be a very user-friendly website.

The next meeting for HPC will be April 4, 2016 at 9:15 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Guy Booth, Secretary