

Mount Vernon Historic Preservation Commission

Minutes from Design Review of the proposed 1st Street/1st Avenue (Highway 1) intersection improvement project located within the Commercial Historic District, which is listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

Date: April 22, 2015

Present: Ed Sauter, Leah Roger, Dick Thomas, Sara Kelly, Hugh Lifson, Susan Hargus

Visitors: Bryan Janssen, Anderson Bogert Engineers, and Francesca Thompson, City Council

Call to Order: 5:37 p.m.

Presentation of project, including graphics and plan maps by Jansen. It was noted that the brick pavers to be used will be the same type used in the cross walks for the previous 5th Avenue SW improvement project.

There was discussion about the proposed stone planters to be placed near the corners along Highway 1 and it was requested that the limestone blocks have a rusticated sides so that they are compatible with the existing historic foundation stones within the Commercial district.

Additional discussion concerned the proposed use of brick pavers in the areas between the street and the sidewalk only in accent borders. It was recommended that brick pavers be used to entirely infill the area between the sidewalks and the street in those locations. It was further recommended that the pavers be laid on a packed limestone base as was recently done for the brick paver sections in front of the Mount Vernon Bank and Trust. Ed Sauter noted that using brick pavers for the infill sections might actually be more cost effective than the proposed concrete. It was requested that the proposed brick paver infill be part of the bid documents along with the concrete option to see what the actual cost will be and an informed decision can then be made. If cost effective the Commission would strongly recommend using the brick pavers for the infill rather than concrete.

There was general discussion of the stop lights to be installed and the limitations of Highway 1 being controlled by the Iowa Department of Transportation, which has resulted in the requirement for the mast arm stop lights on that alignment and the limitation of the current improvement project to the City's controlled areas along 1st Street.

Motion was made by Ed Sauter for a Certificate of Appropriateness for the proposed 1st Street/1st Avenue improvement project contingent on using rough finish (i.e, rusticated) on the exposed sides of the blocks for the proposed limestone planters. In addition, it is requested that brick paver infill between the sidewalks and curb be added to the construction documents as an option to the concrete infill.

Motion was seconded by Hugh Lifson.

Vote: Ayes - unanimous; Nays - none.

Adjourned: 6:15 p.m.