

MINUTES
OF
MOUNT VERNON HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
Saturday, April 4, 2015

The Historic Preservation Commission met on Saturday, April 4, 2015. Commission members present included Leah Rogers, Hugh Lifson, Dick Thomas, Ed Sauter, Susan Hargas, Sarah Kelly and Guy Booth.

The Minutes of the March 7, 2015 meeting were considered for approval. Upon motion by Ed Sauter, seconded by Sarah Kelly, the Minutes were approved.

Guy Booth gave an update on the status of the demolition ordinance. There has still been no action from the City Council members designated to review the ordinance. Guy and Leah will attempt again to get a meeting scheduled.

Ed Sauter gave an update on the audio tour project. The plaques are being installed. The recordings are completed and everything is now available on the telephone number. A brochure showing the location of the buildings in the downtown historic district, as well as a designated number, allows a person to dial the phone number and listen to the history of each building. A celebration of the completion of this portion of the project is scheduled for April 18, 2015 from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Hugh Lifson indicates that he has continued to work on scheduling a trip to Mason City. He has suggested the date of October 17 and 18. He is giving this information to Joe Jennison at CDG, as well as to the Lisbon Historic Committee.

Dick Thomas indicated he has not received any information regarding completion of the restoration of the mural. We anticipate that it is going to be brought back in the very near future. After the meeting, members of the commission looked at the potential site for hanging the mural in the City Council chambers.

Doug Elsberry of OPN gave a presentation in a design review request for new windows and other exterior changes on the Tarr and the Dows dormitories. The renovation will be very similar to the work done on Pauly and Rorem dormitories last year. The major difference would be that the air conditioning for the building will be handled by individual units in the rooms. The reworking of the entrance of the buildings are now ADA compatible. The work that will be done will maintain the overall style of the original construction. Dows was constructed in 1962 and Tarr in 1964. Upon motion by Ed Sauter, seconded by Hugh Lifson, a certificate of appropriateness was approved for the exterior modification of the buildings.

Dick Thomas gave a report on a grant application being made by Cornell College for work on King Chapel. We will contribute a letter for the application that supports the project and indicates Cornell has worked well with the Historic Preservation Commission on the project.

Concern was raised whether the City has provided any notice to HPC regarding the repair of 5th Ave. N. There was also concern regarding their plans for the crosswalks

on 1st Ave. Dick Thomas indicated that we will have a summer intern working for HPC. One of the projects may be completion of the outbuilding records. There will also be work on the website.

Diane Osmund has submitted her resignation from Historic Preservation Commission. Upon motion by Hugh Lifson, seconded by Ed Sauter, the resignation was accepted with appreciation for the contributions Diane has made to the commission. Brooke Berganzel has filed an application to be appointed to the Commission. Brooke would be a great addition because of her understanding of the computer program, and of the archival material at the Cornell Library. The Commission supports the nomination of Ms. Berganzel to the Commission.

May is historic preservation month. It was suggested that Cornell College be recognized for their ongoing efforts at historic preservation on the campus.

Dick Thomas discussed the ongoing controversy regarding the lack of funding for Iowa State Historical Society. He suggested that members of our commission consider becoming members of the State Historic Society so we can have a stronger voice in election of members to the board. He will send out an email to each of us.

The meeting adjourned at 10:30. The next meeting will be May 2, 2015.

Respectfully Submitted,

Guy Booth, Secretary