

MINUTES  
OF  
MOUNT VERNON HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION  
Saturday, April 5, 2014

The Historic Preservation Commission met on Saturday, April 5, 2014 at 9:15 a.m. Commission members present included Susan Hargas, Hugh Lifson, Ashley Anthony, Dick Thomas, Ed Sauter, Patty Westerkamp, Leah Rogers, and Guy Booth.

Minutes of the March 1, 2014 meeting and the March 15, 2014 meeting were approved subject to amendments.

Leah gave a report on the windows restoration seminar that was held on March 29. There was good attendance and substantial information provided. People attended from a number of different communities, including several people who are commercially involved in window restoration. There were 23 attendees who had signed in. The afternoon tour of Cornell was interesting, as concerns were raised about the condition of Platner House. The Commission will continue to work with Cornell to see that the building is preserved.

There was discussion regarding the Cornell College Master Plan Update. The Board of Trustees will review the plan and release it to the public in May. The Commission will be interested in knowing what plans the college will have for renovation of four of the dormitories, especially in looking at what type of window replacements are being considered.

Dick Thomas reported that we are in the negotiations stage on the contract with Anthony Kartsonas regarding the preservation of the Micky Woods Mural. It is hoped that the contract can be completed so the expenses will not exceed \$7,700. The work on the restoration will take place at the studio of Mr. Kartsonas in Madison, WI.

It was reported that the cemetery records project is being handled by City Hall. The contract has been approved and City Hall will be responsible for working with Thoresen Cemetery Data Services.

Guy Booth indicated that the Demolition Ordinance is in its final draft. As soon as the draft is completed, the proposal will be sent to the Planning and Zoning Commission for initial review. Upon their approval, it can then be sent to City Council for adoption.

Hugh Lifson reported on the 52314 Celebration. Historic Preservation will be involved as a jury to select items to be in the time capsule. The time capsule is a vault/urn donated by Morgan Funeral Home. Once items are selected, the vault will be stored at the Visitor's Center. People are encouraged to submit ideas and/or specific items that relate to Mount Vernon as of May, 2014. Items that are submitted and not selected for inclusion will be returned to the individuals. Dick, Leah, Sue and Guy will be the review committee.

Hugh Lifson suggested that our website should have a link to the 1918 pandemic information that has been on Iowa Public Television. This would relate to how the pandemic may have affected Mount Vernon in 1918.

Dick Thomas talked about the work for a summer intern. It is decided that the work should be devoted mainly to our website. We have recently renewed our contract for the domain name and storage for a two-year period. We have been advised that we should move our operating system to a free program that is available. It is designed so we will be able to transfer all of our material to the new program. It will be more user friendly than the system we have been developing. Dick Thomas has talked with Mitch Bloomquist and Dan Hacker, both experienced in computer programming and website design to assist with the summer intern's work. Dick indicates that he has been talking with the archivist at Cornell to help identify a student for the summer intern position. Dick also suggested that Diane Ozmun is interested in working with this person, as well as working with the archives at Cornell.

Leah indicates that the project on developing an audio tour of Mount Vernon is at a point where there has been the submission of a grant request to the Linn County Historic Preservation Board. The board will decide on the grant by early May. It was pointed out that we had previously committed to contribute \$500 to the project.

Leah indicates that Janet Budack, Sarah Kelly and Dick Thomas will review the archive area at City Hall to determine if it needs any reorganization or if there is any additional, non-historic material that may have been placed there by city employees.

Ed Sauter indicates that the porch tour is scheduled for September 21, 2014. He and CGD will be selecting houses that will be included in the tour. He also indicated that he is looking for people to help in the areas of food, music, arts and crafts and children activities. Dick Thomas will give a presentation on the social implication of porches. Ed will give a presentation regarding renovation and preservation of porches. Ashley Anthony indicates she will help line up the types of food that will be available. The overall host of this event is CDG.

We are continuing to look at identifying potential properties for inclusion on the national historic register. Sarah Kelly indicates she will assemble the photographs from 1970 on the various properties that may be eligible. We will then take current photographs to see if there have been any changes that would disqualify the property.

Dick Thomas asked about the responsibility of Rick and Trudi Elliott, as owners of the First Street building to make application to include the property on the National Historic Register. Guy Booth volunteered to check into this matter.

Under new business, Hugh Lifson indicated he was working with someone in LeClaire, IA to arrange a tour. It was decided to look at some time during the month of October for the tour. Hugh also indicated that he would be doing a drawing at Chalk the Walk. He is concentrating on a World War I theme.

The next meeting will be held May 10, 2014 at 9:15 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Guy Booth, Secretary