

MINUTES
OF
MOUNT VERNON HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
Thursday, May 21, 2015

The Historic Preservation Commission met on Thursday, May 21, 2015. Commission members present included Leah Rogers, Hugh Lifson, Dick Thomas, Ed Sauter, Sarah Kelly, Patty Westerkamp, Paul Waelchli and Guy Booth. Guests present were Elias and Courtney Schroeder.

A design review request has been made by Mr. and Mrs. Schrader for the construction of a fence at their property located at 609 5th Ave. NW. Elias and Courtney presented photographs of the projected location of the fence and the type of fencing. The Commission asked about the accuracy of the photographs and proposal, including the type of post caps that will be on the fence. The fence is going to be constructed of metal cattle fencing panels with wood posts, wood cross pieces and either copper or wood caps on the posts. Upon motion by Leah Rogers, seconded by Sarah Kelly, it was moved that a certificate of appropriateness be issued in response to the application for a building permit which has been approved by the City of Mount Vernon. The motion passed unanimously.

The Commission then discussed the location of the Mickey Woods Mural in relation to the front of the City Council Chambers. The concern is that the City Council dais where the chairs and desk are located may cause people to slide backward on their chairs into the mural. It was determined that the dais could be moved forward up to six inches, giving more room for the chairs. Further, the City has considered lowering the dais, which would eliminate the threat of the chairs hitting the mural. There was also discussion about an additional wood barrier that would prevent the chairs from hitting the mural. Upon motion by Leah Rogers, seconded by Hugh Lifson, it was decided that Leah will send a letter to the mayor and City Administrator to discuss the location of the mural at the front of the Council Chambers. The mural will be approximately eight inches below the ceiling. Leah will also discuss the movement of the dais as well as a reduction in the height of the platform. The motion to have this letter submitted was carried unanimously. Guy Booth indicated he would contact the frame trader to see if he would be interested in helping construct the frame for the mural.

In other old business, it was mentioned that the City Council has not appointed a new member to the vacant position on the Commission. The two applicants have raised some concern, because neither live in Mount Vernon. One applicant is an employee at Cornell College so she spends a good deal of her time in Mount Vernon. The other applicant is a resident of Lisbon, and his contacts with the City are unknown. Members of the Commission urged to attend the City Council meeting when the applicants are next considered.

The meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Guy Booth, Secretary