

MINUTES
OF
MOUNT VERNON HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
Saturday, June 6, 2015

The Historic Preservation Commission met on June 6, 2015. Commission members present included Hugh Lifson, Dick Thomas, Patty Westerkamp, Susan Hargas, Ashley Anthony, Janet Budack and Guy Booth.

Robert and Denise Murphy were present to discuss a proposed garage for their home on 5th Ave. N. They are going to build a new garage in the back of the property facing 2nd Street. The design fits well with the historic nature of the home. They had questions about the type of siding, as well as a stone facing on a portion of the garage. The design proposal that they presented met with great approval of the commission members, and the commission greatly appreciated their request to have this informational discussion.

The Minutes of the May 21 meeting were reviewed. Upon motion by Anthony, seconded by Lifson, the Minutes were approved.

Dick Thomas suggested that the audio tour information be placed on the website with a link so a person would be able to connect through the computer to experience the entire audio tour.

Dick Thomas asked for a report on the progress of the demolition ordinance. Guy Booth indicated that the City has not responded to set a discussion date. He suggested that the request for the approval of the proposed ordinance be delayed until the City Council either requests that it be put on the agenda, or until after the fall election.

Brooke Bergantzel, a professor at Cornell College and Miranda Donnellan, a student at Cornell who is our intern for the summer, presented information about the progress on the website. We discussed ways in which to have more people contribute in identifying pictures as to the identity of persons or places so the website will have more detail about each of the documents that have been scanned into the website. It was also suggested that we could sponsor history forums and invite people to view photographs to help identify pictures. This may be easier for many people, rather than trying to access the website and the pictures and then make entries through the computer program. Ashley suggested that we talk with Hallmark Care Facilities to see if there are people there who might like to have a history form.

Janet Budack gave an update on the cemetery project. Hugh Lifson indicated he is still working on details for the trip to Mason City.

The Commission discussed the sign that is now placed on the Platner house on the Cornell campus indicating that it will soon be repainted. It was suggested that you contact Joel Miller to see if the college would like to report on the color schemes that will be used in the painting.

Dick Thomas indicated that as a commission, we should be planning for appointment of new leadership for the Commission. We should appoint a permanent chair. Also, we should continue to try to identify a new member for the commission. Finally, Dick suggested that we reduce the leading schedule during the summer. The Commission will be available at any time for design review.

The meeting adjourned at 10:15 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Guy Booth, Secretary