

MINUTES
OF
MOUNT VERNON HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
Saturday, June 7, 2014

The Historic Preservation Commission met on Saturday, June 7, 2014 at 9:15 a.m. Commission members present included Andrew Mlynarczyk, Sarah Kelly, Patty Westerkamp, Ashley Anthony, Ed Sauter, Janet Budack, Leah Rogers and Guy Booth.

Minutes of the meetings of May 10, 2014 and May 27, 2014 were presented and were approved upon motion made by Sarah Kelly and seconded by Patty Westerkamp.

Design review was considered upon an application by Steve and Mary Young for the reconstruction of a screened-in porch on their residence at 115 4th Ave. SW, Mount Vernon, IA. The house has a screened-in porch that has been present for many years. Their plans are to reconstruct the area which has had some deterioration over the life of the porch. The area would be reconstructed into a three-season porch with permanent encasement windows. The plans indicate that the reconstructed area will fit within the design of the house. There have not been windows in the screened-in porch area, so the owners will be selecting windows that will be appropriate for the new use of the porch. They also plan to save the siding that is on the porch, as it matches the remainder of the house. This will give the owners additional material in case the original siding on the house needs repair.

This property is in the Cornell Historic District, although it is listed as a non-contributing structure because it was not 50 years old at the time the historic district was certified. The property now is more than 50 years old. The Youngs presented drawings of the addition and have shown the materials that will be used.

Upon motion made by Sarah Kelly and seconded by Ashley Anthony, it was moved that the commission approve the application as having no material.

Leah Rogers gave a report on the article that was prepared for the Mount Vernon paper to discuss May being Historic Preservation Month. An article discussing the efforts of Mount Vernon and Lisbon in the area of historic preservation was published in the Sun. It contained information that will be helpful to anyone who is interested in historic preservation generally, or as it may apply to their individual properties.

A report was made on the 52314 Celebration. The time capsule box was at the meeting and commissioners were able to look at the items selected to be in the time capsule. This included photographs of the celebration, as well as current photographs of the downtown historic district. There were articles of information about some businesses, about the community, and also some CD's and DVD's that will be placed in the box. A laptop computer is included in the box so in 100 years, there will be a device to play the CD's and DVD's if there are batteries available to operate the laptop. The time capsule will be sealed within the next week or two, as soon as all of the material has been catalogued and put into archival envelopes.

Leah reported that the Micky Woods Mural has now been picked up by the Conservator and taken to Madison, Wisconsin. It will probably be ready in approximately six months. Some decisions still have to be made regarding framing of the mural, as well as deciding on where the mural should be displayed in the future.

Janet Budack indicated that the project to preserve cemetery records will start after July 1. The City will coordinate the start of the project, as most of the copying of documents will take place at City Hall.

Guy Booth indicated that Planning and Zoning Commission has not met since they received a copy of the proposed demolition ordinance. It is hoped they will have a meeting in June so it can be considered.

In the area of archive management, Dianne Osmun will be helping with this project. We are still looking for a summer intern to do work on cataloguing and entering historical documents onto the website. It is hoped that we can also find a person who is working with the library to be involved in this project.

Ed Sauter indicated that he is organizing a committee to do the porch tour project scheduled for September 21. He has selected a number of porches and hopes to have 10 to 12 on the tour. Many of them will be in the Ash Park Historic District. He is also lining up music, information, lectures and food for the porch tour.

Janet Budack had material that she has collected from the Linn County Assessor's office regarding the list of properties in Mount Vernon that may be eligible for inclusion on the National Register. It was extremely helpful to have photographs of each house. It is the intention of the Commission to prepare a letter to the property owners to give information about the process of being included on the National Register, as well as the benefits of being on the register, as well as the costs. This will allow people to make an informed decision about taking on this project.

In other areas, Leah reminded us that the Preservation Iowa Summit is scheduled for August 22 and 23 in Cedar Rapids. We will be making a presentation at the Summit. Also, it was decided that there are no specific plans for any projects during the Heritage Days celebration in Mount Vernon.

Janet Budack asked a question about the framing of old maps. City Hall has recently framed a couple of documents, but we are not sure if they are reproductions or the original. It was the consensus of the Commission that original documents should not be framed and hung, as reproductions are very accurate. There was also concern expressed about where original documents are at this time and how well they are stored.

The next meeting of the Mount Vernon Historic Preservation Commission is tentatively scheduled for July 5, 2014. If there are no requests for design review, the meeting for July may be canceled.

Respectfully Submitted,

Guy Booth, Secretary