MINUTES
OF
MOUNT VERNON HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
Saturday, June 8, 2013

The Historic Preservation Commission met on Saturday, June 8, 2013 at 9:15 a.m. The meeting was called to order by Dick Thomas. Present were Dick Thomas, Ed Sauter, Sue Hargus, Janet Budack, Sarah Kelly, Leah Rogers and Guy Booth. Also present was Claire Solak, our summer intern. Minutes of the previous meeting were approved subject to corrections by Hugh Lifson.

Guy Booth discussed the revisions to the demolition ordinance. He indicates it appears to be ready to be distributed to the Planning & Zoning Commission, as well as the City Council. There are a couple of typographical corrections to be made. Ed Sauter suggested that language be included to prevent the dismantling of the interior of any building during the waiting period for approval of the demolition of the structure. This will be included before it is sent back to the City Attorney.

Dick Thomas indicated that Luke, our main contact person on the development of the website is moving to California. Dick will stay in contact with Luke to see that we move ahead toward completion of the website. Dick also suggested that a class for the high school history teachers be organized to work on making both the website and the paper digitization site readily available to the teachers and students.

Dick also reported that we will move ahead on consideration of the work needed to be done on the Woods mural when Ms. Van Witt is available.

Sue Hargus has received examples of two different plaques to identify buildings on the telephone tour. The aluminum plaque costs $99 each, while the acrylic plaque is $149 each. In addition to the cost, there will be shipping expenses. Susan will check on other sizes to see if a smaller plaque could save some money. Ed Sauter will talk to other members of the committee and will show them the examples that had been sent by the manufacturer.

Leah indicates that she has filed the National Parks Service annual products report for CLG's. She has also filed the state report. Leah also mentioned that she will be hosting an archaeological dig at the nature park this afternoon. There will be another archaeological dig at Matsell Bridge in a couple of weeks.

Under old business, Dick Thomas mentioned there is interest in the city to file a resolution with the City Council to establish a method for reviewing the removal of old trees. It is a concern of some people that trees are cut down, rather than being trimmed and repaired. We have been asked to take a position on this, but have not had a chance to review the tree resolution. We can make a decision on this once the resolution has been presented to us. Dick Thomas indicated there is still at least one vacancy on the board.

Guy Booth has sent a letter to Matt Nelson to see if he is interested in filing an application to be a member.

Leah Rogers reminded us that the Linn County evaluation of historic archaeological architectural properties has been completed. Each of the members of the commission should send in the time sheet for the review of the document. Leah would like to have this by June 20.

Under new business, the commission discussed the proposed sign for Chameleon's. Everyone felt the sign was appropriate, subject to the sign meeting the size and placement requirements of the Mount Vernon sign ordinance.

Leah Rogers suggested she would like to organize a seminar on preservation of windows, and would recommend that we contact David Wadsworth of Decorah, Iowa. He would be interested in conducting a seminar and we could notify all other historic preservation groups in the area of the availability of the seminar. We looked at trying to organize this for a Saturday toward the end of July. This could be held at the theater at the 1st Street building if it is available.

Janet Budack gave a report on the preservation of the cemetery records. She presented the summary of the cost and time table if we were to hire Carl Thorson to complete this process. Janet and Dick Thomas will meet with Mike Beimer to determine what funds are available through the City to finance the project. The total project would be in the $18,000 area. Janet will report back as to what fundraising may be needed to get this completed. Janet indicates that Meredith at City Hall has been very helpful in working on the project to see that everything is preserved and available.

Dick Thomas gave a description of the work that Claire Slovak will be doing during the summer. She is applying for a job with the Cedar Rapids African American Museum, as her long-term interest is being an archivist working in the area of historic preservation. Claire will be paid $8.00 per hour for her work which will include organizing and identifying archival material in our collection.

Ed Sauter indicates plans are moving ahead for the porch tour. This will probably occur in early to mid-October.

The next meeting of the Commission will be July 6, 2013 at 9:15 a.m. The meeting adjourned at 10:25 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Guy Booth, Secretary