

MINUTES
OF
MOUNT VERNON HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
Saturday, July 18, 2015

The Historic Preservation Commission met on Saturday, July 18, 2015 at 9:15 a.m. Commission members present included Sarah Kelly, Ashley Anthony, Leah Rogers, Janet Budack, Dick Thomas, Hugh Lifson, Ed Sauter, and Guy Booth.

The Minutes were presented for approval. Hugh Lifson had several issues with the Minutes. The Minutes shall be corrected to show that Brook Brook Bergantzel is employed by Cornell College, she is not a professor. Further, Dick Thomas will make appointments for projects of the commission as well as setting the date for meetings. Upon motion made and seconded, the Minutes were approved, subject to the corrections.

A number of design review questions are before the Commission on this date. The first request is for approval by the City of Mount Vernon for the project at 3rd St. and 5th St. The project will replace the curb and gutter, but shall retain the same width of the street. Further, the City will put in brick at the crosswalks at 5th Avenue and 3rd Avenue at 1st Street. Ed Sauter moved and Ashley Anthony seconded that the Commission grant a certificate of appropriateness for the city project on 3rd and 5th Avenue. The motion carried.

Pat Freilinger from Done Done Construction gave a report on work being taking place on a residence at 716 6th Avenue NW. In updating of the residence, a side door on the porch will be sided over. The unused door will then be transferred to a door on the north side of the property. Further, a new driveway will be placed just south of the residence. It will be 10' wide and will eliminate the common driveway that is currently serving the property at 716 and at 714 6th Avenue NW. Mr. Freilinger indicated that the design work for the renovation of the house is prepared by Jarret Hedborg, an interior design company in Los Angeles. Mr. Hedborg has a substantial list of credits in his resume. Upon motion made by Hugh Lifson and seconded by Sarah Kelly, a certificate of appropriateness order is requested. The motion passed.

Deanne Rexroat, from Cornell College, presented pictures of the proposed painting of the music practice house. There were three different proposals that were shown. The Commission showed preference for one proposal. Deanne indicated that is the one that the college is most interested in pursuing. The Commission greatly appreciates the opportunity to provide input on decisions that have an impact on the Cornell Historic District, even though a certificate of appropriateness was not needed in this instance.

A pre-review for the restoration of the Video Village building was presented. Ed Sauter had an architects rendering of how the building will look after the new brick that was added a number of years ago is removed, and the historic windows will be added back. Mr. and Mrs. Lance Dixon are the owners of the building and are committed to restoring the building close to its historic presence in downtown Mount Vernon. This matter will come before the Historic Preservation Commission once an application for building permit is presented.

Leah Rogers indicated that the City Council seems to be in agreement that the Micki Woods mural should be placed in the City Hall chambers. It is unclear if the counsel members desks will be moved forward on the dias, or if they will be removed and placed on the floor of the chambers. Whichever is determined by the City administration, we will be making plans to have the painting installed on the north wall of the chambers. Guy Booth will contact the frame trader company to have them assist in constructing the frame. The mural is ready to be shipped back to Mount Vernon and to be installed.

Dick Thomas indicated that the vacancy on the Commission has not been filled as yet. It is believed the mayor will make the appointment at the next City Counsel meeting. The two people who are still applicants are Mary Evans and Corenne Klein.

Leah Rogers gave a report on the preservation summit conference which was held in Des Moines. She indicates that CLG Commissions need to be aware of what is required to comply with the open meeting law statutes. Email voting is not acceptable. A person can participate in commission meetings if they are connected by Skype, and if they are able to have input in the meeting.

Under new business, it was reported that Leah and Hugh attended the Lincoln Highway meeting at Lisbon. The plans for the highway meeting were unclear, but the Department of Transportation is attempting to listen to the feedback from members of the Historic Preservation Commissions in determining the location of the Highway 30 reconstruction.

Howard Ruppel, at 608 5th Ave. NW, is doing porch restoration at his home. He gave a detailed report of what work will be done to stabilize the porch. Upon motion by Sarah Kelly, seconded by Hugh Lifson, the Board has issued a certificate of no material effect for the restoration work on the Ruppel house.

The next meeting of HPC shall be held August 8, 2015 at 9:15 a.m. at the Visitor's Center.

Respectfully Submitted,

Guy Booth, Secretary