

MINUTES
OF
MOUNT VERNON HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
Saturday July 19, 2014

The Historic Preservation Commission met on Saturday, July 19, 2014, in a special meeting at 9:25 a.m. Commission members present included: Leah Rogers, Ed Sauter, Dick Thomas, Sarah Kelly, Ashley Anthony, Hugh Lifson, Janet Budack, and Andrew Mlynarczyk. Guests present: Jeremy Rogers

The purpose of the meeting was for design review of an application submitted for a window replacement project submitted by Jeremy Rogers, owner of 100 1st Street SE. Rogers was present and submitted design plans for the proposed project. Historic photographs of the building were also presented by the Commission for comparison. Mr. Rogers noted that he and his wife had spent some time looking at other renovation projects in the district and tried to match or find products similar to those used in other projects, such as Chameleons and The Skillet buildings. It was noted that the current windows likely date from the 1950s following the fire that resulted in the removal of the third story from this building and the destruction of the buildings to the east. The storefront at the time of the fire was also not the original storefront but reflected changes made in the early 20th century that were then further modified with the extant windows in the 1950s. Mr. Rogers noted that the windows have deteriorated since that time. The proposal was discussed and questions were answered regarding the proposed new windows.

Andrew Mlynarczyk made a motion to approve a Certificate of Appropriateness for the proposed new windows on the storefront of 100 1st Street SE, Mt. Vernon, Iowa. Hugh Lifson seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous for approval with Ed Sauter abstaining from the vote because of his advisory capacity on the project. This was followed by an informal discussion of the colors to be used.

Under Old Business, there was a reminder of the upcoming Preservation Summit in August in Cedar Rapids. Leah Rogers has registered the three speakers (Leah, Ed and Dick), and will register on Sunday, those of the Commission who have indicated a likelihood to attend at least some portion of the conference (Guy, Hugh, Ashley, Sarah, Pat, Janet, and Sue). If you do not receive an email confirmation by early next week, let Leah know. [The registration cost is covered by our budget.]

The second item under Old Business was an update on the city stop light project. Leah Rogers sent a letter to Dan Boggs in support of vertical poles and expressed concern about the IDOT proposal for overhanging poles and the aesthetic impact to the district. The latest information provided in The Sun indicated that Boggs had submitted several letters of support for the vertical poles and expressed local concerns about the safety and aesthetics of overhanging poles. It was also noted that in the interim, the current temporary lights would be replaced with vertical wooden poles to save money until the permanent lights can be placed later this year.

The third item under Old Business was an update from Hugh Lifson on the LeClaire trip. He noted several dates that appear to work both locally and for the LeClaire folk - September 13 or 27 or October 11, 2014. Hugh will get back to the LeClaire group and see which of these days works best.

The fourth item under Old Business was an update on summer work. Dianne Osmun had emailed Leah noting that progress was being made on the website update. Dick Thomas also indicated that steady progress was being made.

Under Other Old Business, Janet Budack reported that the cemetery records project has begun. The records have been photographed. It was clarified that when completed, the records would be

accessible to the public on the city's website, with a link to be added to the Commission's website for persons interested in researching the records.

Under New Business, Hugh Lifson handed out an article entitled "Is an Ugly House Grounds to Sue?" concerning an interesting legal case in North Carolina where a challenge has been made to a new modernist house in a historic district; however, the challenge was not being made by historic preservationists but rather by a neighbor who simply did not like the design of the house.

The next regular meeting of the Mount Vernon Historic Preservation Commission will be September 6, 2014 at 9:15 a.m. PLEASE NOTE that there is no planned meeting for August because of the summit. The exception might be if a design review application is submitted.

Submitted by:

Leah Rogers, Chair