

MINUTES
OF
MOUNT VERNON HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
Saturday, July 5, 2014

The Historic Preservation Commission met on Saturday, July 5, 2014 at 9:15 a.m. Commission members present included Andrew Mlynarczyk, Ashley Anthony, Ed Sauter, Janet Budack, Leah Rogers, Hugh Lifson, Dick Thomas and Guy Booth.

Minutes of the meeting of June 7, 2014 were presented and were approved upon motion made by Ashley Anthony and seconded by Hugh Lifson.

Ed Sauter gave a report on the audio tour. He explained a request for additional funds for setting up the audio tour. The request was for \$845 which are funds that would come from the fiscal year ending June 30, 2014. The funds were available in our account because we did not hire a summer intern. This amount of money is in addition to the \$500 that we have committed to pay to the project. The \$500 will come out of the fiscal year budget beginning July 1, 2014.

Motion made by Hugh Lifson, seconded by Dick Thomas to approve payment of \$845 as our additional participation in the project was made and passed unanimously.

The Micky Woods Mural report indicates that work is under way. The conservator indicates there is a bit more wood deterioration than he thought. He may be finished with the restoration by the end of August. We will then need to determine what the framing should be, as well as where the mural will be placed in the City Hall chambers.

Janet Budack indicated that the cemetery records project would be under way shortly. The contractor will be doing this at City Hall. It was agreed that the copying can take place in the archive room.

Guy Booth indicated that the demolition ordinance had a review at the June Planning and Zoning Committee meeting. A formal hearing is scheduled for the July meeting. There have been a suggestion for a couple of changes in the ordinance to make the ordinance more readable and understandable. It is anticipated that the Planning and Zoning Commission will forward the ordinance to the City Council for approval.

Ed Sauter gave a report on the upcoming porch tour. He will be having his first meeting with the planning committee on July 10. There are several subcommittee chairs that will be in attendance to work on the details of the program.

Leah Rogers asked which members will be interested in being registered for the preservation summit meeting in Cedar Rapids on August 21 – 23. Leah will register all commission members who want to attend and the registration fee will be paid out of our annual budget.

Andrew Mlynarczyk has had questions regarding the authority for requiring training/education hours. Guy Booth explained that this continuing education

requirement is not specifically stated in the Historic Preservation Ordinance. However, the City requested that the Historic Preservation Commission be a certified local government and file the application with the State. The application was approved and part of the requirements of being a CLG is that commission members have ongoing education in the area of historic preservation. The requirements are minimal and we have been able to meet them individually or as a commission each year. The verification of completion of this requirement is part of the annual report of our commission. Andrew suggested that we make sure that this requirement is part of the information given to any person who is interested in coming on the commission as a member.

Hugh Lifson indicated that he will continue working on a trip to LeClaire, Iowa sometime in October. He will solidify a schedule for the event. He also indicated that he felt The Sun could use more information regarding Mount Vernon Historic Preservation. It was suggested that the Minutes of our meetings be sent to The Sun so the paper is aware of the activities of the commission.

Under new business, Leah asked if there was any report of damage to properties in the Historic District because of the recent storms. No one was aware of any significant damage other than flooded basements. Leah also reported that in the future, we should do some planning for alternative uses of funds budgeted for historic preservation. If one project is cancelled, we should have alternate items that can use the funds budgeted for the year. The unused portion of our budget was returned to the general fund of the City.

The commission met on May 27, 2014 to consider design review for the poles for the new stop lights at the corner of 1st Avenue and 1st Street in downtown Mount Vernon. The commission did approve the selection and design of the stop light poles that had been previously adopted by the City. Evidently, the IDOT is suggesting a different type of signal light structure. Upon motion made by Dick Thomas and seconded by Ashley Anthony, the Historic Preservation Commission reaffirms the recommendation that the design selected by the City be the design used for the poles for the stop light system. Regarding street lights, Ed Sauter suggested the Mount Vernon Bank may be redesigning the area in front of the bank and will have new street lights put in. The commission recommends that the bank select street lights that are compatible with the proposed streetscape design that has been prepared for the City.

Under new business, Hugh Lifson indicated there was a new art exhibit that will be going in at Palisades Café. He encouraged people to support the exhibit when it goes up.

It was decided that we will not have a meeting in August unless pressing business comes to the attention of the commission.

Respectfully Submitted,

Guy Booth, Secretary