

MINUTES  
OF  
MOUNT VERNON HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

Saturday, August 4, 2012

The Historic Preservation Commission met on August 4, 2012. Present were Susan Hargus, Hugh Lifson, Kay Johansen, Sarah Kelly, Ed Sauter and Dick Thomas. Will Klein, summer intern, was present. Guests in attendance were Slaton Anthony and Loyd Roling.

Call to order was at 9:20 a.m.

Slaton Anthony notified the Commission that the initial discussion of the demolition ordinance was scheduled for the August 6, 2012, City Council meeting. He polled the Commissioners about their interest in receiving emergency notifications by a City-operated Twitter account.

Design review of the replacement of the back deck and a roof addition to the property located at 710 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue N.W. was discussed. Mr. Roling, the contractor, explained that the deck was not visible to the public. Upon motion made by Lifson and seconded by Kelly, it was moved that the application for a certificate of appropriateness be approved on the basis that the deck replacement and roof addition had no material effect. The motion carried.

Lynn Woodley requested pre-design review of two potential projects involving buildings in the Commercial Historic District, including the building housing the Scarlet Boutique and the former I.E. building. Ed Sauter presented information from Lynn Woodley regarding his proposal to replace the second floor windows with a more efficient double hung window with insulated glass for the Scarlet Boutique. Discussion ensued about the option of rebuilding the sash in addition to replacing the windows with insulated glass. Dick Thomas will provide the name of a company skilled in sash repair to Ed Sauter to allow Lynn Woodley to explore possible options.

Lynn Woodley is contemplating the purchase of the former I.E. building. In order for the second floor to be used for apartments, Mr. Woodley wanted input on the possibility of installing a new outside entrance along the east side to access the apartments. Ed Sauter mentioned the presence of dual entrances on several Commercial District buildings and recommended that review with the Linn County Building Department be undertaken to ascertain their requirements.

The status of the Chameleons building was discussed. Ed Sauter explained that the second story windows were in good shape and could be salvaged by removing the sash and reglazing the windows. Input from the State has been requested to determine whether to replace

the façade because it consists of soft brick and plaster. One suggestion is to remove the old plaster and replace it with plaster and coat it. The goal is to maintain the windows, since they are original to the building.

The extension of the Commercial Historic District was discussed. Dick Thomas, Ed Sauter, and possibly Leah Rogers, will meet with Paula Mohr, State Historical Society, on August 25, 2012, to discuss the options for extending the district and writing a grant for funding.

Minutes of the meeting of July 7, 2012, were presented and upon motion unanimously approved.

Under Old Business, Dick Thomas reported on the website. He proposed a website workshop for August 18 with Luke Korth and all available commissioners. Dick encouraged all commissioners to review the website prior to the proposed August 18 meeting. Dick explained that each historic district will have an introduction and some “teasers” to invite viewers to explore the website. Dick suggested that the Cornell Historic District be split into two tours, one tour consisting of the College “Mall” to the East end, and a second tour consisting of the neighborhood from 5<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> to the churches.

Will Klein explained that there had been a few minor changes to the website. He stated that 1100 pictures had been uploaded from the glass negatives.

Hugh Lifson provided an update on the Micky Woods’ project. An individual from Chicago had been identified for contact, but required \$1200 per day to travel to Mount Vernon. Stan Wederspan suggested that varnish be applied to stabilize the mural. Nancy Kraft, from The University of Iowa and a member of Iowa Conservators, would be a good resource for other options.

Hugh Lifson reported on the LeClaire trip. The date for the trip is possibly October. Hugh Lifson also mentioned an alternative tour of a Cedar Rapids’ architectural show.

Under New Business, Hugh Lifson reported that a new museum was opening in Des Moines related to WWI and the training of black troops in Iowa.

The next meeting for the MVHPC is scheduled for Saturday, September 8, 2012, at 9:15 a.m.

The meeting adjourned at 10:38 a.m.