

MINUTES
OF
MOUNT VERNON HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
Saturday, September 20, 2014

The Historic Preservation Commission met on Saturday, September 20, 2014. Commission members present included Patty Westerkamp, Sue Hargus, Sarah Kelly, Dick Thomas, Andrew Mlynarczyk, Dianne Osmun, Hugh Lifson, Janet Budack, Ashley Anthony, Ed Sauter and Guy Booth.

Ed Sauter called the meeting to order at 9:15.

Hugh Lifson requested that the Minutes from the meeting of September 6 be amended to show that the art exhibit at McWethy Hall includes Cornell faculty and professors Emerti, but not Cornell students. Sarah Kelly moved the approval of the amended Minutes. The motion was seconded by Ashley Anthony and the motion carried.

A design review request has been made by Big Creek Market regarding a sign to be painted on one of the two windows on the front of the building. The request included a minimal description of the lettering to be placed on the window. It did not indicate the color of the printing. After discussion of the proposed signage, and knowing the city zoning administrator has granted approval, upon motion made by Andrew Mlynarczyk and seconded by Sarah Kelly, the commission has approved the grant of a certificate of appropriateness for the signs. Motion carried. Because of the discussion regarding the lack of information about the signage, Ed Sauter suggested that this motion should carry the caveat that it is assumed the sign is in compliance with the zoning ordinances.

Because the Commission would like to have more detail when applications are filed for a certificate of appropriateness, Ed Sauter agreed to send a letter to the zoning administrator requesting that the zoning administrator consult with applicants to make sure they are providing the full information regarding the design, colors, size of letters, etc. when a new sign is being proposed. Ed will also send copies of the letter to the various sign companies in the area.

The second design review request came from the Methodist Church. The desire to have a concrete pad that has fencing around it for placement of the dumpster used by the church. Motion was made by Sarah Kelly, seconded by Janet Budack, that the application be approved and designated as having no material effect. The motion carried.

Hugh Lifson reported that the commissioned trip to LeClair, Iowa went well. Hugh has sent a very gracious thank you letter to the person at LeClair who helped organize the event. Patty Westerkamp talked about how well LeClair has done in re-doing the downtown area. She gained some insight as to how this was accomplished, both in terms of organization and in funding. This information could be helpful to the City of Mount Vernon as they work on their streetscape plans.

Dick Thomas reported that the restoration of the Micky Woods mural should be completed by the end of October. We will still need to determine how it will be framed and where it will be hung in City Hall.

It was also mentioned that the City Hall Administration is interested in selecting a number of pictures from the archives to be reproduced and put on display throughout City Hall. Sarah Kelly indicates she will help Meredith at City Hall to select photographs. Dick Thomas thought it would be important to have information about each photograph that could also be displayed.

Ed Sauter also indicated that there may be a signage problem at Big Creek Market. Evidently, two new signs have been placed on the building, but the application for signage has not come through Historic Preservation. Ed suggested it would be a good idea to have Matt Siders attend the next historic preservation meeting so we can discuss signage issues from his perspective and our perspective.

Andrew Mlynarczyk indicates that he will be submitting his resignation from the Commission. Andrew will be starting a new job in Pittsburgh, so will be leaving the community. Commission members are encouraged to think about a replacement for Andrew.

Ed Sauter reported that Leah Rogers may need to resign her position as chairperson because of a number of issues, both in her work schedule and her family schedule. Ed will be in charge of the November 1 meeting and at that time, we can make a determination as to electing a new chairperson if needed. Next meeting will be held November 1, 2014 at 9:15 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Guy Booth, Secretary