

MINUTES  
OF  
MOUNT VERNON HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

Saturday, September 8, 2012

The Historic Preservation Commission met on September 8, 2012. Present were Mary Iber, Hugh Lifson, Kay Johansen, Sarah Kelly, Leah Rogers, Ed Sauter, Dick Thomas and Pat Westercamp. Guests in attendance were Luke Korth and Dee Ann Rexroat.

Call to order was at 9:30 a.m.

Design review of the proposed sign for the Van Etten-Lacey House was discussed. Ms. Rexroat explained that the exterior design lettering selected was similar to the signage design for other buildings on campus and was also ADA-compliant. Design review of campus-wide signage was deferred. Lifson questioned the selection of the lettering style, explaining that the style was too modern for all of the historic buildings on campus. Lifson stated that the letter needed a softer sensibility and would forward recommendations to Ms. Rexroat for additional consideration. Thomas motioned to approve the application for a certificate of appropriateness on the basis of no material effect as it pertains to the Van Etten-Lacey House only. Motion was seconded by Sauter. The motion carried.

Minutes of the August 4, 2012, were presented and upon motion unanimously approved.

Luke Korth presented changes to the MVHPC website. Comments were made about the banner at the top of the website, including font style and color. A request was made to add the historic districts as a banner topic to the website. Thomas recommended that a public education seminar be held, introducing the website and requesting help for identifying photos on the website. Prior to the public meeting and to develop interest in identifying the website photos, Sauter suggested developing a periodic newspaper column incorporating an unidentified photo and requesting help from the public. Sauter will contact the Sun editor regarding this proposal.

No information was available on the status of the demolition ordinance submitted to the City Council.

Sauter updated the Commission on efforts to expand the Commercial Historic District to include the Chameleon's Building. The remaining two buildings on the block were not sufficiently intact to justify inclusion in the District. Sauter has submitted proposals to the State to return Chameleon's to its 1930s façade, including a simple cornice and the addition of a panel below the windows in conformance with several over Commercial District buildings.

Efforts to expand the Commercial Historic District to include the Chameleon's Building were discussed. Rogers thought that it was possible for the Commission to handle the application internally, but will review the process and make appropriate recommendations.

Iber updated the Commission on the project to digitize the Mount Vernon/Lisbon newspapers. The Commission's contribution of \$1,500 from FY2012 is being held until the contract is signed with the company handling the project. Thomas recommended that more entities be contacted to invest in the project. Motion was made to commit the MVHPC to provide up to an additional \$1,500 to the project. The motion carried.

Lifson requested input regarding the LeClaire trip. Proposed dates are 10/13, 10/20, and 10/27. Lifson will follow-up with the LeClaire contact and notify the Commissioners of the date.

Iber reported on the USDA meeting. The USDA has a limited number of small grants and low interest loans available for projects.

The status of the Micky Woods' mural conservation project was updated. Pete Sixby, State Historical Museum, has been identified as a possible individual to assist with the project. Thomas will forward photos of the mural to Sixby, who, in turn, will make recommendations.

The Commission continues to need an additional commissioner.

Rogers, who will be conducting an archaeological site survey as part of a Linn County Historical Society grant, will need assistance with surveys and report review from the Commission as part of the required in-kind grant assistance.

Thomas presented information regarding the CDG group tours commission. He expressed concerns about the training protocol suggested by this group and will contact Joe Jennison, CDG, to discuss.

The next MVHPC meeting is scheduled for Saturday, October 6, 2012, at 9:15 a.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:13 a.m.

