

MINUTES
OF
MOUNT VERNON HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
November 14, 2018

The Historic Preservation Commission met on November 14, 2018. Members present were Leah Rogers, Suzette Astley, Caroline Kelly, Robert Murphy, Mary Evans, and Guy Booth. Upon motion made and carried, the Minutes of the November 3, 2018 meeting were approved.

The first item of business is discussion of a building permit issued to the Mount Vernon Methodist Church. The building permit issued by the City was for the repair and replacement of the roof on the education wing of the building. Because the roofing company was from out of state, and had thought they could get a building permit issued upon request, they were unaware of the normal process for building permits for property located in an historic district. The Mount Vernon Methodist Church is in the Cornell Historic District. Because of the need for the commencement of work, and because the roofing company was from out of state, it was agreed that a provisional building permit would be issued, thereby allowing the building permit and application for approval from historic preservation to be made at this meeting.

It was apparent that there was no material change in the building, and that a new membrane being put in place was the reason for the roof repair. Upon motion made by Sue Astley, seconded by Caroline Kelly, a motion for no material effect was approved. The Commission desires to work with the City to have a better understanding of what building permits for property located in a historic district may be issued without prior review by the Historic Preservation Commission. Having a better understanding of the policy regarding building permits will be of assistance to the City and to Historic Preservation. An amendment to the ordinance may be needed.

The second design review request was presented by Suzette Astley. Suzette is the owner of a house located at 703 5th Avenue NW, Mount Vernon. It was discovered that several of the columns on her porch, both the front porch and the side porch, were deteriorated. Suzette has dealt with a contractor to determine how the wood that has become rotten could be replaced, and how the columns can either be replaced or restored. The photographs presented show the areas of deterioration in the porch. Suzette indicates that new bases for the columns will be needed, as well as the replacement of a column if the rotten wood extends too far up into the column. Leah indicated that Ed Sauter has worked with homeowners regarding this issue and may have a solution that is less invasive than tearing out and replacing columns. Leah suggested that Suzette contact Ed Sauter, as he has had experience helping people with this damaged wood problem. Upon motion made by Guy Booth and seconded by Mary Evans, a certificate of appropriateness was approved.

Leah indicated that there are some training films that are now available online that qualify for the hours of training that is required by historic preservation.

Mary Evans reported that Cornell has determined they will not release any portion of the Mount Vernon archival collection. This collection includes a number of pictures, newspaper articles, journals from early pioneer people, and material from Walter Gormly, both his writings and information about his home. Mary indicates Cornell is very cooperative, but the college decided they did not want to release the archival material to the Historic Preservation

Commission. Mary also indicated that she is working to put portions of the Mount Vernon High School freshman history class that relates to Mount Vernon history onto the website. Mary will need to have a release signed by the students so their projects can be viewed on the internet.

Leah indicated that the tour of the Bell Tower at King Chapel was extremely interesting. The Commission was given a very good tour of the portion of King Chapel that houses the clock and the bells. The clock has been removed for repair, and will hopefully be reinstalled during 2019.

Leah indicated that the next Commission meeting would normally be held December 3, 2018, but if there is no pressing business, the meeting may be rescheduled for a later date in the month.

The meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Guy Booth, Secretary