

Minutes of the November 2, 2019 Meeting of the Mount Vernon Historic Preservation Commission

Call to Order - 9:16 am

Present - Leah Rogers, Mary Evans, Machele Pelkey, Caroline Kelly, Grace Chamberlain, Suzette Astley

Motion to approve the minutes from 10-16-2019 meeting made by Suzette Astley; seconded by Grace Chamberlain; unanimous approval of motion

Pre-Review - 109 10th Avenue SW in the Cornell College District. Garners submitted a fence permit on Friday afternoon to the city after the meeting agenda had been posted; however, a pre-review had previously been added to the agenda prior to the posting deadline for this project. The HPC reviewed the submitted documents and plans. It was noted that the fence was to be made of steel and painted black. The motion was made by Suzette Astley that the HPC sees no concerns with the proposed fence and will review it officially at our next scheduled meeting on November 13, 2019 at 5:30 pm at the Visitors Center. Mary Evans seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

New Business -

- Rogers presented an application that had been submitted to City Hall by Janet Budack for the remaining vacancy on the HPC. Budack's application was reviewed noting for new members Janet's previous service on the HPC and her background in historic architecture and historic preservation. The motion was made by Mary Evans and seconded by Caroline Kelly for Leah Rogers to submit a letter of recommendation to the Mayor and City Council in support of Budack's application.
- Machele Pelkey presented a proposal to fundraise for projects such as updating the design guidelines through One Mission her in Mount Vernon. Machele showed a mock-up of logos that could be used for the first offering reviving the "Mount Vernon - One Hill of Town" slogan from years past. One Mission will set up a fundpage where people can purchase merchandise or simply donate. One Mission offered use of a Mount Vernon skyline sketch that they had not used and would not charge us for use in this first offering. They will receive 40% of the proceeds from sales with the HPC receiving 60%. One Mission also suggested promoting it at Magic Night in addition to the fundpage and will promote it as "the return of a classic." Volunteers will be needed to man a table at One Mission on Magic Night if we wish to take part of that event. The motion was made by Mary Evans and seconded by Machele Pelkey to approve starting a fundpage with One Mission for the selling of the proposed merchandise and depositing the proceeds in the existing Friends of Mount Vernon Historic Preservation account at the Mount Vernon Bank and Trust. Approval was unanimous.
- Rogers noted that Ed Sauter had conducted an owner consultation since the last meeting. The consult was requested by Tiffany Carr who owns a home in the Ash Park district. She had concerns about the structural integrity of her kitchen structure, and Ed was able to provide some recommendations for addressing the problems.
- Machele Pelkey presented the walking tour brochure that the History Center in Cedar Rapids maintains that promotes local walking tours. Pelkey suggested this as a possibility for Mount Vernon. There was some discussion about where the tour cards are for the three Mount Vernon districts, and Mary Evans noted that we have the cards for Cornell College and Ash Park in our archives but are missing the cards for the commercial district. She indicated that the cards had been borrowed for a summer students' program at Cornell but were never returned. She indicated that Joe Jennison should know who it was that borrowed the cards. Other ideas were discussed

such as the MVHPC having a Facebook page or Instagram account. Rogers also noted the possibility of a photo book such as those published by Arcadia Publishing as part of their *Images of America* series.

- Caroline Kelly asked if anyone knew of a chimney sweep they could recommend. Some possible suggestions were made.

Old Business -

- Machele Pelkey discussed the need to update the design guidelines and some possible ideas for doing so. Rogers noted that such updates can be done with HRDP or CLG grant funding, but even if we fund it through fundraising we will need to have Paula Mohr at the State Historic Preservation Office review the document before printing.
- Suzette Astley discussed the draft CLG manual and contact list. She noted there had been some revisions to the decision flow chart and ideas were discussed on how to improve the format and look of the chart. Grace Chamberlain recommended using a free graphic design program called Canva.
- Mary Evans presented an update on the website and archives. She noted that we are still being considered for space in the new police station. She also reported that Nancy Turner had wanted to donate a spinning wheel to the HPC and she told Nancy that as an archive we cannot accept antiques. Mary did ask around the local museums and no one wished to take the donation, so Mary reported that back to Turner, who thanked her for checking. Mary also reported that house searches are coming up on the website. The recommendation was also made to put the nomination pdfs on the website for the three districts. Caroline Kelly asked if she can submit her brick house tour materials for filing in the archives and was told that would be a great idea.

Meeting adjourned at 10:40 am.

Next Meeting - Wednesday November 13, 2019 at 5:30 pm at the Visitors Center.