

MINUTES
OF
MOUNT VERNON HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
April 6, 2019

The Historic Preservation Commission met on Saturday, April 6, 2019. Members present were Mary Evans, Suzette Astley, Patti Westerkamp, Susan Hargus, Hugh Lifson, Peter Ault, Machele Pelkey, Leah Rogers, and Guy Booth. Also present were Joe Jennison, from CDG, and Jeff Mick, from Cornell College. Also attending the meeting were Tessa McEarchern, Addie Pacha, and Tom Redding.

Upon motion made by Suzette Astley, seconded by Mary Evans, the Minutes of the meeting of March 6, 2019 were approved.

A design review application has been submitted by Cornell College for ongoing renovation of the tower of King Chapel. Work that is needed includes metal work and louvres that will be part of the clock face, new roofing material for the tower, and additional structural work on the tower. Much of the plans for the chapel renovation have been reviewed by the Commission in the past. Cornell has been successful in obtaining grants for working on the renovation of the building. The Seth Thomas clock is nearing completion of its renovation and should be returned to the college later this year. The Commission is appreciative of Cornell doing an excellent job of renovation of the building and keeping the Commission informed of the progress that is made. Upon motion made by Hugh Lifson, seconded by Suzette Astley, a certificate of appropriateness for the ongoing project is approved.

Joe Jennison is requesting that the Commission approve a storage shed to be constructed and placed at the rear of the Visitor's Center. The building is needed to store certain equipment that is used by CDG for various festivals. The proposed building will be a commercially produced storage shed. Because it is a non-permanent building, CDG would hope to purchase a shed that will be economical, but will also meet the needs of this additional storage. CDG has not determined what the final selection will be, but gave examples of what could be selected. It is apparent this type of storage building is needed at this time. A motion to approve the application as having no material effect was made by Suzette Astley, seconded by Caroline Kelly and was approved.

Tom Redding, owner of the building at 113 1st St. NW attended the meeting to discuss pre-review issues for replacing the front screen door and replacing windows in the building. Tom had pictures depicting the screen door from the early 1900's. He is not sure if he can get an exact replica, but will want to have a door that would be representative of that era. Tom also discussed replacing windows on the side of the building that faces the alley. It is difficult to find replacement windows of the size of the window openings. He is suggesting having a window that will also include a transom for the upper portion of the opening. There was good discussion about the size of the window, the size of the transom, and any decorative trim that would be part of the transom. Tom will have the final information at the time he applies for a building permit.

Mary Evans introduced the two Cornell students. Tessa McEarchern was the summer intern for 2018 and Addie Pacha will be the MVHPC's 2019 summer intern. Tessa worked in the archives, and especially with photos and glass negatives. Tessa also reviewed many of the Mount

Vernon history projects from the freshman Mount Vernon history class. Many of these have been added to the website.

Addie Pacha will be working this summer on a project that helps identify what businesses have existed in the buildings in the downtown historic district. Addie will also do videotapes for oral history from some of the current business owners.

Mary Evans also indicates that a photo montage is being put together in the Russell Science Hall to memorialize the two civil war houses that have been demolished. Deanne Rexroat is helping organize the display.

Leah Rogers indicates that the brick house nominations have now been completed. There needs to be a public hearing before the nominations are presented for approval at the state national registration nomination review committee hearing on June 14, 2019. Eleven of the twelve houses that have been researched for nomination are ready to be submitted for approval. The one house that will not be submitted is the house owned by Sarah Fried. It is determined that because of the demolition of the original portion of the house, as well as other changes that were made in the structure, that it may be difficult to have the addition approved because the original building is no longer present. The history of the building is well-recorded in the research done, and will be part of the archives of the Commission. The final approval by our commission of the overall project will take place in our May meeting.

Leah announced that Machele Pelkey has agreed to be the design review coordinator. Machele will depend on all of the commission members for help as it is needed.

Mary Evans reports that a group has met to continue to work on looking for a grant for the repairs and restoration of the Visitor's Center. Before a grant proposal can be prepared, and an appropriate grant program designated, we will need to get a solid estimate of the total costs and phases of the project. Leah also indicates that we are still looking for potential grant money for the renovation of the porch on the house at 605 7th Ave. NW.

Finally, and most importantly, the Commission wants to acknowledge the substantial and professional work that Leah Rogers has contributed to the Commission. She has done great work on the project to nominate the brick buildings for the historic register. She has given wonderful guidance to the Commission in dealing with preservation issues and dealing with the continuing upgrading of the work of the Commission and the preservation of the archives. It is appropriate that the Commission recognize the tremendous service Leah has provided to the Commission.

The next monthly meeting is scheduled for May 4, 2019, unless it needs to be rescheduled because of Chalk the Walk. A meeting may also be scheduled for April 17 if there are any design review requests that have been presented.

Respectfully Submitted,

Guy Booth, Secretary