

MINUTES
OF
MOUNT VERNON HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
May 4, 2019

The Historic Preservation Commission met on Saturday, May 4, 2019. Members present were Ed Sauter, Hugh Lifson, Mary Evans, Patti Westerkamp, Susan Hargus, Suzette Astley, Machele Pelkey, Leah Rogers and Guy Booth. Also present was Wade Squiers.

The Minutes of the meeting of April 17, 2019 were approved.

The first design review application is for property located at 122 1st St SW. This is a building in the business district. Wade Squiers is the owner of the building and was present to discuss what will be taking place. The building has two separate business areas. The front windows that face 1st Street are in need of repair. Mr. Squiers is proposing putting in new energy efficient windows. They will be the same size. The trim around the windows will be approximately the same size. He desires to use a PVC material for the framing. Ed Sauter had suggested that he consider using cement board type framing, as it is a product that can be painted and retain paint much better than the PVC products. Mr. Squiers indicates he will look into it. Upon motion by Ed Sauter, seconded by Hugh Lifson, a motion to approve a certificate of appropriateness was approved.

The second design review request has been submitted by Tony Cassady for signs on a building located at 114 1st St. SW. Mr. Cassady is relocating his tattoo/piercing business to the building. Mr. Cassady is proposing a shingle sign that will project from the building. He also has submitted the design for other identification signs that will be located in the transom area of the windows. Mr. Cassady was available by phone and discussed the signs that will be put in place. The main concern of the commission was how the shingle sign would be attached to the building. It was strongly recommended that the signs not be attached to the brick structure, but instead to the mortar between the bricks. Attaching to the bricks will cause deterioration of the bricks. Using the mortar will allow repair if there is any deterioration. Mr. Cassady indicates that his intention is to attach the sign to the mortar between the bricks. Upon motion by Ed Sauter, seconded by Guy Booth, a certificate of appropriateness is approved, with the requirement that the sign be attached to the building in the area of mortar between the bricks.

Under new business, Leah announced that the public hearing to review and approve the brick house nominations will be held May 15, 2019 at City Hall. This will be at 5:30 p.m. A public hearing is required before the hearing for approval at the state national registration nomination review hearing scheduled for June 14, 2019. Each of the 11 properties will need to be separately approved at our hearing on May 15.

Under new business, Hugh Lifson highlighted an article in Humanities Magazine regarding the history of 6 on 6 girls basketball in the state of Iowa. The article was written by Hugh's daughter.

Under old business, Suzette Astley indicates that the grant application to the Hart Family Small Town Grant has been submitted. The grant request is for \$3,600, and it must receive matching funds. The City Council has approved the additional \$3,600 as a match for the grant if

the grant is awarded. CDG is the actual grant applicant and the funds will be used for the preparation of a historic structure report so we will be able to continue to schedule repairs and restoration of the building. It is important to have this historic structure report, as it will be needed for verification for grants that we may apply for in the future.

Mary Evans indicates she has responded to messages that have been left on our website. One person was requesting information about the location of the Mount Vernon quarry. A number of plants had previously been identified as coming from the quarry area, and the person doing the research was not familiar with where the quarry is located. Mary was able to answer the questions for him. A person has found 7 pewter memorial coins near the site of the former train depot. They are about the size of a half dollar. He has offered to give one to HPC. Mary will ask if we can get two of them so we can prepare a display that shows both sides of the coin and have them in the Visitors Center.

Mary also displayed a copy of a photo of the Wolfe brothers standing in front of what is now the Visitor's Center. It served both as a medical office, and as a law office when the property was owned by the Wolfe family.

Leah reminded the Commission that the Preserve Iowa Summit will be held in Newton, Iowa the second week of June. Registration is still open for the Summit. Leah also mentioned that Cornell is still working on the design and completion of the memorial for the Civil War houses. Finally, Leah announced that Janet Budack will volunteer to put together owner packets for people who purchased properties in any of the historic districts.

Respectfully Submitted,

Guy Booth, Secretary