

MINUTES  
OF  
MOUNT VERNON HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION  
June 12, 2019

The Historic Preservation Commission met on Wednesday, June 12, 2019 at the Mount Vernon Visitors Center. Members present were Leah Rogers, Hugh Lifson, Machele Pelkey, Patti Westercamp, Suzette Astley and Guy Booth. Also present were Les and Katrena Garner.

Upon motion made by Hugh Lifson and seconded by Machele Pelkey, the Minutes of the meeting of May 15, 2019 were approved.

The first order of business is the design review requested by Les and Katrena Garner for the addition that is planned for their residence at 109 10<sup>th</sup> Ave. SW, Mount Vernon, IA. This house is in the Cornell College district. Les and Katrena had presented their proposed plans at a prereview session earlier this year. The plans have been refined, and have been changed slightly to fit within Mount Vernon zoning regulations. The addition to the house will be added to the west end of the property instead of on the north side of the property. This addition will be less visible from the front of the property. All of the siding and trim, and the double-hung windows will replicate those features that are present on the house. Roof lines will also match the original roof lines. The plans to attach the present garage to the house have been revised so that instead there will be an overhang from the roof of the house, which will provide protection from the weather when walking between the garage and the house. The Garners have had the property surveyed, and have been able to answer issues that were raised by Planning and Zoning. Guy Booth moved, and Hugh Lifson seconded a motion to approve a certificate of appropriateness for the Garner project. The motion passed unanimously.

The second design review was presented pursuant to application from Bernadette Lane. The project design shows that a car port that is located on the northwest part of the house is going to be redesigned so it will be an enclosed portion of the building, and will no longer be used for parking of a vehicle. The opening of the car port will be closed, and a regular-sized door will be placed in the closure to allow pedestrian access. The plan modification of the car port will improve the appearance of the portion of the house, and will be of benefit to the owner of the property. This house is located at 1127 MacGregor Lane and is also in the Cornell College District. Suzette Astley moved and Patti Westercamp seconded a motion to approve a certificate of appropriateness for the project. The motion passed unanimously.

Under new business, Hugh Lifson presented a discussion on how to honor Leslie Timble, a Cornell graduate, and an architect who provided a great deal of assistance in establishing the Cornell College historic district. Dr. Richard Thomas has a great deal of information about the contributions made by Ms. Timble. Hugh is trying to determine what would be a good method to publicize the work of Ms. Timble, and to honor her for the work. It was suggested that Dick Thomas could prepare a letter to the Sun newspaper that would be informative. It would also be appropriate to put the letter, as well as other items of history about Ms. Timble on the HPC website. Hugh will continue to work on determining the best way to honor Ms. Trimble and will present his ideas at a next meeting.

Leah gave a brief report on the preservation summit that was held. She thought the attendance was lower than normal for the annual summit. However, she did attend some very interesting sessions and as always, has good ideas as to what would be good projects for our commission to be working on. Leah also indicated that she will be present in Des Moines for the state nominations review committee as they consider the applications for the 11 brick houses that are requesting to be placed on the national register of historic places. She will be the presenter to the committee. Guy Booth wondered if we had given any thought to what type of a plaque may be appropriate if any of the owners of these buildings desire to have an indication that their residence is now on the historic register. We may want to consider what types of plaques are available so we have some uniformity for the public recognition on these buildings.

Leah also gave a report from Mary Evans regarding the website update. Mary, Janet Budack and one of the summer interns have been working on identifying the names and types of businesses that have been located in the downtown business district over the many years.

Hugh Lifson indicated that he was pleased with the article in the Sun that was a reprint of research completed by his daughter on 6 on 6 basketball. This article should be added to the archives.

Mr. Tom Redding, owner of the former Sauter/Baty building gave a brief report on the project of redoing windows on the west side of the building. It appears putting in glass transoms will be prohibitively expensive. He is still working on determining what type of material to put in the transom. He is also considering a fleur-de-lis decoration on the windows. He will keep us informed of final decisions he will make on the window repair and the front screen door replacement.

The next regularly scheduled meeting for the commission is July 6, 2019 at 9:15 a.m. at the Visitors Center.

Respectfully Submitted,

Guy Booth, Secretary