

Minutes of Mt. Vernon Historic Preservation Commission

July 18, 2018

The HPC met in open meeting at 5:30 pm at the Visitors Center.

Present - Leah Rogers, Mary Evans, Janet Budack, Sara Kelley, Hugh Lifson, Suzette Astley

Visitor - Joe Jennison

Approval of Minutes from the meeting of July 7, 2018 - Suzette Astley made the motion to approve and Mary Evans seconded. Unanimous approval.

Design Reviews -

1. Revision of First Mural design submitted by Joe Jennison for 100 1st Street SE. Joe Jennison presented the redesign and noted that it would be in sepia tone. Leah Rogers read Matt Sider's email concerning the sign ordinance and exempt signs and what Matt had to say about the likelihood that he would consider it to fall under Section d. Exempt Signs, Item 5 - "Works of graphic art painted or applied to building walls which contain no advertising or business identification messages." Rogers noted that Siders has not yet signed off on the building permit for the mural. Motion was made by Sara Kelley to approve the redesigned mural submittal for a Certificate of Appropriateness pending approval of the permit by the City. Hugh Lifson seconded. Unanimous approval. Jennison was thanked for considering our recommendations resulting in the mural redesign.
2. Rogers presented the second permit application for design review for the installation of solar panels on the rear roof slope of Mike and Jill Ripke's house at 518 8th Street NW in the Ash Park Historic District. There was some discussion about needing additional guidance on solar panels in historic districts. Rogers noted that she would talk to Paula Mohr about it when she sees her this week in Des Moines. Rogers reminded that the Ripke house is non-contributing to the district; therefore, there would be no direct impact to a historic property. Hugh Lifson made the motion to approve the solar panel installation for a Certificate of No Material Effect. Janet Budack seconded. Unanimous approval.
3. Rogers noted that the third design review submittal from Ash Park HD for was dropped because house painting does not require a building permit and thus is not in our jurisdiction for design review. No further action was taken.

Old Business -

Hugh Lifson presented some initial information about the tour of Jones County. He had contacted the Tourism Board and they have a package deal for tours that includes stops in Monticello, Camp Courageous, Edinburgh, Anamosa and Stone City. He stated the cost was \$5 per person or a \$50 minimum. Rogers asked if we could eliminate Camp Courageous as it has no

historical properties and is a modern site. Lifson will inquire about the possibilities. He will continue to work on finalizing a tour for this fall.

Mary Evans noted that the HPC spent all but \$77 of our FY2017-18 budget and were able to pay the interns before the end of the fiscal year. She also reported that Cornell's audio tour is done and Ash Park's audio tour is nearing completion. Gretchen Sutherland submitted a historic photograph of her house and it is now in the archives.

New Business -

Hugh Lifson reported on an article about Prospect Park in Brooklyn that is of interest and some remarkable photographs taken in New York City.

Next Regular Meeting - August 4, 2018 at 9:15 am

Meeting adjourned - 6:00 pm