

MINUTES
OF
MOUNT VERNON HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
August 18, 2018

The Historic Preservation Commission met on August 18, 2018. Members present were Leah Rogers, Robert Murphy, Mary Evans, Hugh Lifson, Sara Kelly, Susan Hargus, and Guy Booth. The Minutes of the meeting of August 4, 2018 were approved.

A final design review application came in from the Sing-A-Long Café regarding the design of the mural to be placed on the west side of the building at 100 1st St. SE. The design review that was completed on July 18 resulted in a vote for a Certificate of Appropriateness. Subsequently, there has been a revision in the proposed mural which requires a further review by Historic Preservation.

The latest iteration of the mural features, prominently in the middle, a person dressed in a white shirt. Concern was raised as to how startling this would be as part of the mural. It was suggested that the artist consider muting the large expanse of white so that passing motorists would not inadvertently be distracted because of the prominence of the mural. The mural is located at the traffic lights at the corner of 1st St. and 1st Ave. The mural request has been approved by the City of Mount Vernon. Upon motion by Sara Kelly, seconded by Susan Hargus, the Commission will allow the certificate of appropriateness to remain in effect.

Leah Rogers led a discussion on the retaining walls that are being constructed as part of the new science building along 5th Ave. SW. A review of the Minutes from December, 2016 indicated that the college agreed that there would be a memorial for the two civil war houses that were being demolished. It was the consensus of the Commission that this included an indication of the footprint of each of the houses, as well as material that would be in printed form to provide a history of the houses. The college is constructing the retaining walls and have agreed to have a portion of the walls that are above ground level to be faced with limestone, the material that would have been the foundation of the two houses. However, there has been no information provided to HPC regarding the printed/pictorial memorial of the houses. It was determined by the Commission that Cornell be invited to discuss with the Commission the additional plans to memorialize the houses that have been demolished. It was decided that this issue should be raised with Cari Morgan, who is in charge of the completion of the new science building.

Guy Booth raised the question of how the City, as well as HPC, could be involved in reviewing non-traditional painting schemes for buildings. This discussion came about because of the design painting on a building on 2nd Ave. NW. The building is not in the historic district, but does impact other properties that are in the district. There does not appear to be any method to review proposed painting of structures, but it would be helpful if both the City, as well as HPC give some thought to how to ensure the integrity of the historic district.

Hugh Lifson indicated that he would like to put the Jones County tour on hold, as he is dealing with health conditions that make it difficult to predict when he would be available to complete the plans. The Commission understands the situation and will wait for Hugh to give further information regarding scheduling the tour.

Leah will announce what our next meeting date will be. It appears Commission members may be available on September 1, which is the Saturday of Labor Day weekend. She will make a decision as we get closer to that date.

Respectfully Submitted,

Guy Booth, Secretary