

MINUTES  
OF THE  
MOUNT VERNON HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION  
Wednesday, September 18, 2019

The Historic Preservation Commission met on Wednesday, September 18, 2019 at 5:30 pm at the Visitors Center. Members in attendance were Leah Rogers, Susan Hargus, Hugh Lifson, Sue Astley, Machele Pelkey, and Ed Sauter. Guests who were in attendance included Cliff Weaver.

The **minutes** from the 9-7-2018 meeting were opened for discussion with Hugh Lifson wanting to clarify the last paragraph. Specifically, Hugh's original intent was to note that "there is a design for plaques already in Mount Vernon that could be used," not that he was asking if there was a design for plaques. A motion was made by Ed Sauter to accept the minutes with Hugh's correction, with Sue Astley seconding the motion. There was unanimous approval of the motion.

**Design review** of an application for a Certificate of Appropriateness for a building permit for additional work at 712 6th Avenue NW in the Ash Park Historic District. This permit is for the removal of a non-original aluminum-framed window in the north gable end (attic level) of the house. The opening will then be closed and covered with the same type of handmade wooden shingle siding currently on this gable end. Cliff Weaver of T.W. Contracting noted that the attic appeared to have been finished back in the 1950s, with this window added in the 1960s-1970s. It was noted that the proposed window removal project would bring this gable end back to its original appearance. A motion was made by Ed Sauter to approve a Certificate of No Material Effect for this project with Sue Astley seconding the motion. The motion was approved by unanimous vote. The HPC members thanked Cliff Weaver and Nate and Amana Goodlove for their notable preservation work on this house and their attention to detail. The house had been in much need of attention.

**New Business - An interest form** was submitted by Grace Chamberlain of 716 2nd Avenue NW in Mount Vernon to fill one of the current vacancies on the HPC. Grace attended the HPC's previous meeting. It was noted that her background includes a Bachelor's degree in Anthropology, Art History, and Museum studies, all relevant to the work of the HPC. She also has a Master's in Library Science and is currently employed at Cornell College library. It was noted that this would continue the library connection between the HPC and Cornell. The motion was made by Hugh Lifson to recommend Grace Chamberlain's application for the vacancy to the City Council for approval. Sue Hargus seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous vote.

Sue Astley noted that as a property owner, she had received the **HPC's newsletter**. There was some discussion about future items for the newsletter.

Hugh Lifson noted that the **Portrait of Mount Vernon** event will be October 5th and he will be unable to attend the next regular HPC meeting because it is on the same day.

**Old Business** - Leah reminded about the **Brick House tours** on September 29th. Leah then read two emails from Mary Evans with updates on the **archives**. We received another dozen letters and postcards donated from Doug Moore, grandson of Dr. John Bryant. The **website** also had over 1,000 views starting September 9th; Mary noted that it might have something to do with the 9th grade history report time again. Mary also reported that she had recently received and delivered **house histories** for three homes and hopes that more home owners will take an interest in their home's history.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:47 pm. Respectfully submitted, Leah Rogers, Chair