

Waverly Historic Preservation Commission Minutes
Thursday, April 23, 2009
Waverly Public Library Conference Room 5:30 p.m.

Members Present: James Hundley, Dita Boorum, Kathryn Payne, Karen Lehmann, Dr. Terrence Lindell, Les Zelle

Members Absent: Geneva Liebau

Council Present: Cyndi Ecker

Also present: Beth Paulsen, Sarah Meyer-Reyerson

Visitor: Marlys Svendsen- Iowa Homeland Security, Justine Zimmer – Iowa Homeland Security, Rod Scott – Iowa Historic Preservation Alliance, Jill Yuska -INRCOG, Jim Rodemeyer INRCOG Housing Director, Erika Lindgren, Mary Meyer, Anne Drolet.

Call to order at 5:35 p.m.

Minutes were approved for the 4-13-2009 meeting and stand as submitted.

City Communication: Meyer-Reyerson shared that the Cedar River Dam Historic Survey will soon be underway.

Council Communications: none

Regular Business:

1. Marlys Svendsen was introduced and shared with the commission a summary of her findings and evaluation of the “windshield” survey previously submitted, the *Historical and Architectural Reconnaissance Survey for 2008 Flood Projects in Waverly, Bremer County, March 27, 2009*.

Svendsen explained that this is part of the first step of Section 106 National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. Section 106 requires that a survey of this kind be done.

Svendsen noted that FEMA documented and photographed 700+ flood affected properties in Waverly. The survey created by Svendsen and Zimmer looked at about 500 of those properties. They eliminated roughly 200 properties from consideration as they were newer properties, thus not yet considered historic in nature.

Two large historic districts were found among the flood affected areas that they named the SE quadrant and the NW quadrant. There were a total of 108 National Registry eligible properties found.

Svendsen stated that she would like to see a questionnaire go out in the community to gather information on the history of various properties to aid in her research. If the Waverly Historic Preservation Commission would support this process, it would be appreciated.

It was explained by Svendsen and Zimmer that the next step will involve a Memorandum of Agreement process that will involve FEMA, the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), IHSEMD, the applicant or CLG (City of Waverly/Waverly Historic Preservation Commission), and other FEMA invited organizations or individuals connected to the project. This memorandum would

state the historic loss to the community due to the removal of flood affected properties. A public meeting would be necessary (prior to the MOA meeting) to discuss how to account for this loss to the community of Waverly. This meeting would most likely be at the next meeting of Waverly's Historic Preservation Commission, May 28. Svendsen would prepare a power point presentation for this meeting to explain the survey findings and the MOA process.

Svendsen suggested that the commission may request FEMA funding for projects like: a publication of the history of certain historic districts, educational seminars on preparation for future flooding, educational seminars on the process needed to nominate a property to the National Historic Registry. Svendsen stated that the MOA could also include requests for funds needed to salvage, deconstruct or move flood affected properties.

When a community identifies historic districts, funds may flow into the community. Incentives for historic property owners include: 1. flood insurance benefits if the property is on the national register of historic places. 2. Income tax and property tax incentives for owners of historic properties which are renovated.

2. Rod Scott from the Iowa Historic Preservation Alliance shared how FEMA has asked his non-profit organization to help facilitate the curation, elevation, relocation, salvage or deconstruction of flood affected properties. Scott stated that the hope would be to store and reuse the salvaged materials in the local area. The Alliance can also incorporate local salvage businesses already in the area. Once the buyout process is completed and the City owns the property, there are choices other than demolition available to the City.
3. Svendsen stated that (regardless of the MOA process) she would be completing the Iowa Site Inventory Form for 100+ properties in Waverly. This would be an effort to document properties before they would potentially be torn down. This form will aid in calculating the compensation of historic loss to the community. These forms will also be helpful should someone want to nominate a property for the National Historic Register. Svendsen stated that the research done by her and her colleague on a large number of properties would generate all the needed information to submit a property to the National Historic Register minus the following items: name of current owner and address, certain photos, labels and a presentation.
4. Svendsen suggested the commission create a "wish list" of what would be helpful to Waverly's historic preservation based on the loss in affected neighborhoods.
5. Scott stated that he would be at the MOA meeting with FEMA to support the request created by the Waverly Historic Preservation Commission.
6. Svendsen stated that they are there to help educate and facilitate the commission in this process and suggested that the commission meet again before the larger public meeting to gather ideas and lists of options. There will be a need for leadership from the commission at the public meeting on May 28th, so an election of officers would be best done before this meeting.
7. Jim Rodemeyer of INRCOG stated that he is here as an agent of the city in the buyout process to oversee the demolition of properties and make sure that all government regulations are followed and met. Rodemeyer stated that the buyout

- process is helpful in that the property owners are able to move forward as the city then decides the next step needed for the properties in question.
8. Scott mentioned that there is an organization called the Partners for Sacred Places he is in contact with, which has programs designed specifically for church properties.
 9. The commission discussed future meeting times and dates. It was decided that the next meeting for the commission to elect officers and create ideas for the large public meeting would be on Thursday the 7th of May at 5:30 in the conference room at the Waverly Public Library.
 10. The larger public meeting would be held on May the 28th at 7 p.m. in the Bremer Room at the Waverly Public Library.

Old Business:

1. No nominations were submitted for the Local Historic Preservation Award.
2. Lindell submitted a list of potential website links to post on the Commission webpage.
3. Proclamation for Historic Preservation month has been submitted to the local news paper.
4. The bridge marker text written by Matt Hoodjer will be sent out by Meyer-Reyerson to Commission members via email/mail for review.

Boorum made a motion to adjourn at 7:30p.m.

Payne seconded the motion.

Yes: 6

No: 0

Absent: 1

The next meeting will be May 7th at 5:30 in the conference room of the Waverly Public Library.