

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

Members Present: James Hundley, Erika Lindgren, Kathryn Payne, Karen Lehmann,
Mary Meyer, Lester Zelle, Geneva Liebau
Members Absent: none
Also present: Beth Paulsen, Sarah Meyer-Reyerson
Visitors: 2 local homeowners
Lehmann called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.

Lehmann and the fellow commissioners welcomed the visitors to the meeting. As well
the sitting commissioners welcomed the newest member, Erika Lindgren to the
Commission.

Approval of the 6-25-09 minutes:

Zelle made a motion to accept the minutes as written.
Lindgren seconded.
Yes: 7
No: 0
Absent: 0

Lehmann mentioned the positive changes to the HPC website. Paulsen noted the desire to
add commissioners' photos and biographies to the page. Meyer-Reyerson noted that it is
also accessible through the library website as well as the city's website.

Lehmann welcomed Kelly Engelken - Waverly Chamber of Commerce - to the meeting.

Old Business:

1. Meyer-Reyerson gave an explanation of the marker currently being discussed for the
Bremer Avenue Bridge. It will be bronze, mounted on field stone and located at the west
side of the bridge. Meyer-Reyerson noted that the deadline for the grant portion of the
funding for this project is in September of this year.
Zelle questioned the wording on the text which will be verified and modified by Paulsen.
Once modified it will be emailed to commissioners (or mailed) for approval.
The preferred photo for the marker will be used if permission is obtained by the owner.
Otherwise the secondary choice will be used.

Meyer-Reyerson stated that the next step (after approval of photo and text by
commissioners) will be to get a mock up of the marker by the seller.
Lehmann suggested asking the seller's opinion on which of the two photos being
considered would be recommended for this marker. Meyer-Reyerson stated that it was
her understanding that both photos would not fit.

2. Meyer-Reyerson reported on her phone conversation with Marlys Svendsen of Iowa Homeland Security regarding a meeting that took place on July 23rd to discuss the priority list submitted to FEMA by the commission.

- It appears that priority #1 (NRHP *district* nominations for NW and SE) was most likely going to be approved but altered due to the individually NRHP-eligible properties within the proposed districts already being nominated as a part of the district.
- Priority #2 (moving of buildings) will be removed from the Memorandum of Agreement. This process must be funded with funding outside of FEMA.
- Priority #3 (historic survey of downtown) will most likely be approved.
- Priority #4 (additional individual NRHP nominations) may result in some funding but there will not be enough funding provided for all individually NRHP-eligible properties. The commission will need to give some guidance as to how to prioritize homes for individual NRHP nomination.
- Priority #5 (educational seminars) had some support but there was question as to how it would be done. There is potential of having a FEMA representative travel the state doing seminars.
- Priority #6 (general historic preservation education program) will most likely be removed from the memorandum of agreement – too general and vague.
- Priority #7 (a publication documenting neighborhoods) will most likely be removed but it was suggested that the commission seek grant funds for such a project later, as well for street signage. Svendsen will forward information to the commission on the City of Iowa City's street sign program. These projects could be possible through grant opportunities in the future.
- Priority #8 (financial support for the Sturdevant house and the museum) was also viewed as a very general request which would be a low priority for funding, however it was suggested that the commission may want to make the individual NRHP nomination for the Sturdevant home a high priority under #4 above.

Meyer-Reyerson stated that she was told the next step would be a draft Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) submitted to the commission by FEMA. It could then be two months to get circulated and signed by all parties. Meyer-Reyerson also told the commissioners that it is a city official that will be Waverly's signatory on the agreement. That official may go to Des Moines to sign the agreement.

Svendsen told Meyer-Reyerson on the phone that there is an upcoming teleconference regarding the process of moving a home.

Svendsen told Meyer-Reyerson that if the commission is interested in moving, deconstructing, or salvaging buyout homes they should take their concerns to the city council.

Lehmann voiced concern that this process not slow any of the buyout process and that the community needs to be given information regarding the next few steps the city must take now that the money is "here".

Engelken stated that there is already a great amount of documentation on the downtown area.

Lehmann asked if there is still potential for a southwest district in Waverly. The report seems to indicate at this time that the properties of interest in the southwest area are too spread out to be a district. Some wondered if even a small area could be named.

Payne stated that historic districts do not have size restrictions but are dependent on things like proximity and historic timelines.

Meyer-Reyerson stated that there may be potential to add a further study of the potential district to the MOA in upcoming negotiations.

Payne asked if we should request a spot on the city council agenda to share the commission's thoughts on the possibility of moving, salvaging or deconstructing any buyout properties. As well, she suggested talking further to Rod Scott of the Iowa Historic Preservation Alliance.

Zelle expressed the need for the city to talk to the paper about the further steps involved in the buyout process.

Meyer-Reyerson stated that the buyouts have to happen after the MOA is done.

3. Zelle reported that he is moving forward with his research on the past and present movie theater histories. Zelle stated that a representative may be visiting the area soon.

Regular Business:

Liebau expressed interest in seeing the Old Harmon House receive a nomination for the Waverly Historic Register. She stated that a list of potential properties was once created by the commission that including this property. Lehmann suggested we find that list in previous meeting minutes.

Council Report: none

Staff Report: none

Chairperson's Report: none

Mary Meyer stated concern regarding a home being purchased in the next week that includes a two story barn that might be removed and replaced with a two stall garage. It was suggested that the commission contact local realtors regarding the recent historic survey and potential historic districts to be identified, as many may not be aware of the homes of historic significance.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

The next meeting of the Historic Preservation Commission will be Thursday August 27th at 5:30 p.m. in the Conference Room of the Waverly Public Library.