

Waverly Historic Preservation Commission minutes. January 23, 2017. The commission met at 5pm at the Waverly Civic Center. Meeting was called to order by Chair Don Meyer. Present: Deborah Ackerson, Kris Brunkhorst, Karen Lehmann, Mary Meyer, Peter Newell. Absent: Glenn Fenneman, Dan Lampe- newly appointed city council liaison. Guests present: Tom Hicks. City Staff: City Admin James Bronner and Econ. Develop Director, Bill Werger. Members asked to have a conversation with our new council liaison and to consider Kris' semester schedule after May, about the 5pm meeting time and day and what is best for Dan as we value his input.

The November minutes were amended to include Deborah Ackerson as present, then approved as read.

Regular business and updates: The Historic District Signage Installation plan was discussed by James Bronner, City Administrator. Crews will start with SE then NW in the next couple of weeks and hope to be done by spring. Then commission and sign subcommittee Deborah and Karen can observe and make any changes before ordering the other batch of signs. (changes may include: how many, if the size is right, if the Historical signs will go opposite direction of the street sign).

The Harmon St./3rd St. Green Bridge update. Bid letting will be Feb. 7, 90 bidders showed interest, even a firm from Canada who does work like this, and many interested bidders came to an informational meeting. Feb. 20 is the public hearing at council. If voted on and approved bids, work will start yet this year; and commission can move on determination of the declaration of a Historic Structure for the National Registry-We would tell Marlys Svendsen when to submit.

CLG Annual Report for 2017 is due at the end of February. We filled out our personal information cards to help with this. Paige Yoder (Admin Assistant to Econ. Development) and Sarah Meyer-Reyerson working on submitting it before the deadline. Glenn will need to fill his out.

SW Historic Neighborhood Celebration: A subcommittee of Peter, Kris, Deborah, and Mary was formed to work on this and bring needs and information back to the full commission. Thoughts were discussed about possibly tying in with Waverly Heritage Days Celebration Saturday/Sunday July 15/16th. The Sturdevant Historical House is in this district and the descendants will be here that weekend. First meeting will be Wednesday, March 8, 2017, 6:30pm at the Library. Deborah will reserve a meeting room there.

HPC Website updates: Paige Yoder is willing to work on this. She will create a rough layout to present at the next meeting. She will work on: a place for minutes; each district will have bullet points or sub categories; and pictures, documents, awards will be a tab. Sarah organizing info for Paige on a hard drive by folders. Commissioners asked if we could put each commission's ordinances link on their own page, i.e. Historic Preservation Commission's ordinance linked to our HPC website. Bill Werger, thought yes. Or we could put our meeting dates on the site. Decided to see what Paige's created site looks like before we move ahead with creating our own somewhere else that was discussed in previous minutes.

Nominations for Preservation at Its Best Awards (Preservation Iowa) are due in April. Karen and Don will work on that. We would like to nominate our Historic Districts project for the Community Effort award. 750-word (typed) narrative/summary of the project is a requirement. It would include the beginning and end of project, challenges and solutions, impact on the community, funding (how the flood allowed us to create this) and our goal of promoting tourism. Karen and Don will work on the award wording.

Upcoming educational opportunities: June 8-10 Preservation Iowa Summit-Ft. Dodge. Karen and Pete expressed an interest in attending.

Farmer's Exchange Building was discussed. Tab has preliminary architectural drawings for the building to be an outdoor shelter house with restrooms. The Waverly Garden Club has expressed concern about the plan and would like to see more of the original structure (windows/walls) kept and wondered if the commission felt the same. Bill suggested Larry Kurtz, AHTS, original architect, could come to the next meeting, show us the plan he's already created, discuss a revamped drawing-progratise-, and what it would take to keep walls and windows. Commissioners then discussed saving, drawings/ideas for the other co-op building (old parks maintenance long building to the rear/south of the Farmer's Exchange), and the possibility of preserving it also. Don will contact Larry about coming to the next meeting.

The 2017 HPC Action Plan was passed around for all to read, change, approve. No corrections or additions.

Pete brought the book *Lost Ireland* by William Derham and a great quote he found in it: "Ruskin once said that without architecture you cannot remember and this, even more than their historical importance and pleasing design, is probably the most immediate reason for preserving old buildings. They are the most tangible link we have to the past, to our ancestors, to our history-and through all this to ourselves. They help to preserve memories. They are the embodiment of stories, of the people who built them, of those who lived or worked in them and the events that happened in and around them. They are about as close as we can come to stepping back into the past." "It was once said that for evil to flourish in the world all it takes is for good men and women to stand idly by, and so it is with our built heritage. Unless we make our interest in, awareness of and love for these buildings known to those who are charged with keeping a watchful eye on them (government and local authorities) and to those who would bulldoze them as useless or archaic ('developers'), they will all sooner or later disappear."

Maybe this should be our mission statement.

No staff report or council liaison report

Don and Commissioners offered A BIG THANK YOU to Sarah for the tremendous amount of work she has put in on this commission, especially on the Historic District Nominations! A huge amount of time! Thank you Sarah, we appreciate your knowledge so very much and of course, your time!!!!

Meeting adjourned at 6:25pm. Respectfully submitted by Kris Brunkhorst.