

Waverly Historic Preservation Commission Minutes

The Monday, August 28, 2017, meeting was called to order at 5:00 pm at the Waverly Civic Center.

Commissioners present: Kris Brunkhorst, Linda Hovden, Karen Lehmann, Glenn Fenneman, Don Meyer, Pete Newell and Mary Meyer

Commissioners absent: None

Council present: None

City liaison present: Bill Werger

Visitors present: Rod Drenkow, Tom Hicks

Adoption of the Agenda

The proposed agenda was adopted.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the July 24, 2017, meeting were approved.

Visitor Comments

Rod Drenkow, chairman of the board of the Bremer County Historical Society, presented a summary of the problems facing the board regarding the Historical Society Museum building, including the lack of funds for maintaining the building, its unsuitability for housing historic artifacts, water issues (related to the eaves and seepage in the basement), the outdated plumbing and electrical systems, and the lack of an elevator for handicapped accessibility. He also reviewed the scenarios for the building that have been discussed by the board, including selling the property and relocating, demolishing the building and constructing a more appropriate building, or renovation. He asked if the HPC could suggest resources that would be helpful to the museum board.

After some discussion it was decided that the HPC could be most helpful once the museum board has decided on a plan for the building. We could then suggest contacts for possible grants or other funding, or for help with preserving the building.

Regular Business

1. ***Update to the City Council at the Monday, August 28, meeting***

HPC Chair Don Meyer will summarize the recent activities and accomplishments of the HPC, including:

- The launch of the Sturdevant SW Historic District, Waverly's fourth historic district
- HPC proposals for preserving the buildings in South Riverside Park
- The updated content on the HPC's newly-designed website
- The search for funding to survey a possible historic district in NE Waverly

He will also thank the Council for funding the nomination of the Green Bridge to the National Historic Register and will reiterate the importance of the nomination.

2. ***Election of officers***

By unanimous ballot, the following officers were elected: Don Meyer, Chair; Lehmann, Vice Chair. The secretary's position will continue to be filled on a rotating basis by members of the HPC.

3. ***Grant opportunities***

The HPC will apply for a grant to defray the expenses of commissioners who attend historic preservation conferences.

4. ***Relocating or reusing a portion of the Green Bridge***

Brunkhorst presented a letter from Chad Bird, City Manager – Decorah, where sections of an old bridge were recycled. He recommended presenting a comprehensive plan to the City Council that stresses the

HPC's suggestions for preserving a portion of the bridge structure, the grants or other funding that might be available, and the advantages of the plan.

5. ***Historic Preservation Commission Budget 2017-18***

Werger presented the budget for operating supplies. The available funds were \$650.00; expenses to date totaled \$512.02, leaving a balance of \$137.98.

Funds are also available from the Hotel/Motel Tax fund that may be used for purchasing historic plaques and signs, and for printing walking tour brochures and posters of the homes that have received preservation awards.

6. ***Signage***

Lehmann will contact Brian Sullivan to determine if all of the historic district signs have been installed. Werger advised that the City will add wayfinding signs when road construction on Bremer Avenue has been completed and would like input from the HPC.

Council Report

No report.

Staff Report

Werger gave a brief progress report on the Bremer Avenue road construction.

Chairperson's Report

No report.

The next meeting will be held on ***Monday, September 25, 2017***, at ***5:15*** pm at the Waverly Civic Center. Please note the time change.

Respectfully submitted by Mary Meyer, Acting Secretary