

HPC Update to City Council
August 28, 2017

1. Thanks for the opportunity to bring this update on behalf of the Waverly Historic Preservation Commissioners. They are a dedicated/passionate group—current members are Karen Lehmann, Kris Brunkhorst, Peter Newell, Mary Meyer, Linda Hovden and Glenn Fenneman.
2. We do want to say a special “thank you” to Deborah Ackerson and Tom Hicks for their years of service on the Commission.
3. Our biggest event of the year was the July 15 celebration of our FOURTH historic district—the Sturdevant SW District. Walking tours were available, and a special program that packed the basement of First Baptist Church.
 - We thank Mayor Infelt for his remarks at the program.
 - We thank Councilman Mike Sherer for attending.
 - We thank our sponsors—Fareway, KWAY Radio, Rod and Bonnie Drenkow
 - We thank First Baptist Church who went out of their way to host our event
 - We awarded a plaque honoring the placement of First Baptist Church on the Waverly Historic District, and we gave a Waverly Historic Preservation Award to Scott and Sherri Niles for the preservation work they’ve done on their home.
4. We also want to comment on completing the nomination of the Green Bridge to the National Historic Register. We thank the City staff for their help in completing that nomination. Some may wonder why we’ve placed it on the National Register if it’s going to come down. The main purpose of any National Register nomination is to create a PERMANENT file that documents the history of the structure. It’s a permanent remembrance of how that bridge served our community for over 100 years. So no matter what happens to the bridge, we’ll always have a permanent record of that history and remembrance on file at the State Historical Society office and the National Park Service.
5. We’re also exploring if it makes sense to preserve one span or pieces of the bridge and place it in a nearby park, to have some physical remembrance of the bridge. We may or may not have a recommendation on that.
6. In that regard, our Commission has also made progress on providing information on our website for homeowners and property owners in our 4 historic districts, which clarifies what they can and cannot do with those properties, and what tax advantages are available to them. We want to provide that service to our City and to our citizens.
7. We’ve also given input on the future development of Riverside Park and look forward what develops there.
8. Finally, we’re looking into grant funding for a project that would bring our historic district nominations full circle. The only section of town without a historic district is the northeast quarter. We would need to raise the funding to hire an architectural historian to carry the nomination forward through the process. So it’s an idea we’re pursuing, but not sure exactly when it might materialize.
9. Questions?