

Waverly Historic Preservation Commission Minutes, January 22, 2018

The Waverly Historic Preservation Commission met on Monday, January 22, 2018, at 5:15 PM at the Waverly Civic Center Conference Room.

Commissioners present: Kris Brunkhorst, Glenn Fenneman, Linda Hovden, Karen Lehmann, Don Meyer, Peter Newell

Commissioners absent: Mary Meyer

Staff liaison present: Bill Werger

Council liaison present: Brian Birgen

Adoption of the Agenda:

The proposed agenda was adopted. (Moved: Lehmann; Second: Fenneman; Unanimous)

Approval of Minutes:

Approval of the minutes of the November 27, 2017, meeting were approved. (Moved: Newell; Second: Fenneman; Unanimous) Spelling error will be corrected.

Visitor Comments:

None

Regular Business:

1. *Green Bridge NRHP nomination—review and approval by HPC and Mayor Soash, signed form to SHPO before their February 9 review*

Mayor Soash was not present. The Waverly Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) discussed the Third Street SE Bridge nomination to the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). This is up for review by the State Nominations Review Committee (SNRC) on February 9, 2018. A copy of the form is available at the Waverly Public Library, at Werger's office, and via a link on the HPC website.

Lehmann commented on the superb research and integrity of the submission that Marlys Svendsen provided for the Third Street SE Bridge NRHP nomination. The supporting documentation for the nomination was thorough and professional and was reinforced with very interesting photos. D.Meyer reminded the Commissioners that the primary purpose of any nomination to the National Register is to create a permanent historical file that documents the history of that property, district, structure, etc. This creates a permanent reminder of the history and how that historic place or structure served its community. Placing a property or structure on the National Register does not, however, guarantee that the property can never be torn down. The Third Street SE Bridge (Green Bridge) nomination in the National Register of Historic Places was reviewed and approved (Moved: Lehmann; Second: Newell; No discussion: Unanimous)

The HPC reiterated its position, that it is important to nominate the Green Bridge to the National Historic Register for its historical preservation. The HPC has no position if the bridge was to be replaced. If the HPC wishes to preserve some part/piece of the bridge, it is the Commission's understanding that would need to be considered in the bid. There was some discussion regarding the Charles City and the Decorah, Iowa, bridge preservation tactics.

2. *Grant for registration/lodging costs for NAPC Forum in Des Moines in 2018—need signature from Mayor Soash, and return to Paul Mohr at SHPO*

The Mayor signed the agreement for registration/lodging costs for the National Alliance of Preservation Commissions (NAPC) Forum to be held from July 18-22, 2018, in Des Moines, Iowa. This grant has

already been sent and has been received. Those attending will need to submit a report summarizing the event experience and a request for reimbursement. Mileage is not included. There was a brief discussion of the grant for two registrations.

3. *CLG Annual Report for 2017—deadline is February 28 to SHPO, Commissioners check personal information*

Each Commissioner reviewed his/her personal information and made any necessary corrections, including attendance at certified preservation events and conferences. Deadline for report is February 28, 2018.

4. *2018 NACP Preservation Excellence Awards—do we want to nominate ourselves?*

Applications for the 2018 NACP Commission Excellence Awards are now being accepted. These awards recognize efforts in protecting historic districts and/or landmarks through public outreach, education and advocacy. The application fee is \$25, and the deadline is February 23, 2018. HPC, itself, can be nominated. Lehmann will work on this. She will prepare the draft and forward to D.Meyer for review. Since the next HPC meeting is after the deadline date of the submission, a motion was approved to proceed with the nomination with the \$25 fee paid from the Commission's budget. (Moved: Newell; Second: Brunkhorst; Unanimous)

5. *Survey for possible NE historic district nomination—SPARK Consulting in Cedar Rapids, Rebecca McCarley (grew up in Waverly)*

In checking, D.Meyer learned that Maggie Jones, the name Andy Bell had given him to contact, was no longer in Iowa and unable to assist us with this endeavor. However, in his research, D.Meyer learned of Rebecca McCarley, also a native of Waverly, who represents SPARK Consulting out of Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Commissioners can go to their website for further information about the firm. In visiting with Rebecca, she showed interest in this project and referred to HPC's request as a "reconnaissance drive-through." D.Meyer has not yet been notified of any costs. He will continue to work on this and keep the Commissioners informed. HPC's intent is to determine if the NE quadrant of Waverly has enough historic structures to pursue a nomination for another historic district. If this would be warranted, money would need to be raised and grants obtained to move forward. There was conversation that The Guernsey Foundation might be a possibility to check into, if this project continues forward.

6. *Any more on missing historic district signs?*

This was addressed in bullet #10 in the November 27 HPC minutes. Brian Sullivan will continue adding signs and posts this spring.

7. *Concrete Block Homes in Waverly (photos)—Mary has photographed the homes in Waverly that were made of locally manufactured concrete blocks, and will compile a list for January's HPC meeting*
M.Meyer absent—report tabled

8. *"Finding Your Preservation Story" for K-12 students and teachers—D.Meyer has asked Kris Meyer, the Principal/Admin. Of St. Paul's School, if they would be interested in this curriculum, and she thought yes. Karen will confer with Don about taking the proposal to the WSR Curriculum Director, Bridgette Wagoner, for their consideration*

D.Meyer shared that this is an educational curriculum tool for K-12 students and their teachers. There are guided lesson plans, activities, learning objectives and other tools to help build in our youth an appreciation for historic preservation. D.Meyer reported that the St. Paul's School Principal likes this experience-offering for her students and will continue to look into this. Lehmann and D.Meyer will continue to support and identify ways to promote this historic preservation curriculum. D.Meyer will send a link to the site, or one can simply go to "Finding Your Preservation Story" to find the link for additional information about this program

In this discussion, Brunkhorst shared that she will be giving a presentation on the Sturdevant House for Waverly's Project Lead program. She will be sharing how important this house is to Waverly and to its history; how it is one of the oldest structures in Waverly; to educate on the life and history of Waverly

and its settlers during the time this house was erected; to educate on the life of the middle-class at that time -- and the education continues. What a great example of public outreach and advocacy to be used in next year's report.

Reports:

Staff Report—Bill Werger:

Additional information is needed for Section II of the 2017 Annual Report, i.e., public educational programs, walking tours, the gathering at the Baptist Church, etc. D.Meyer will do this.

Werger shared the financial issues evolving from the large amount of data on the HPC website. Removing some of the files from the site is being explored. Werger shared that the information will continue to be on the server, just not on the HPC site. Options to consider for storing and viewing the possible data and documents to be removed were discussed. These included The Waverly Public Library; putting the documents on Cloud; links to other sites--like the National Park Service website; etc. Lehmann will follow-up on formulating a list of possible links that could be utilized for obtaining various documents now stored on the HPC site. Werger will keep the Commission informed and will present a plan to reduce the data on the site as further work and research continues on this. There was discussion regarding the importance of not only having these documents available to the citizens of Waverly; but, also, having them easily accessible. The site provides information to help educate the community about the HPC and its mission; the importance of the historic districts and properties; what it means to the individual property owners; what possible resources might be available to them; having up-to-date information available to those interested.

Werger, also, wanted the Commission to be aware that the Bremer County Historical Society is facing major issues in preserving the Historical Society Museum building. Getting it in front of Preservation Iowa: "Endangered Buildings" and the possibility of Rebecca McCarley providing some insight and/or assistance with this were mentioned in the discussion. The Commission extended their appreciation for the alert.

Council Report:

Brian Birgen was welcomed as the HPC new Council liaison. Birgen did note that a meeting date on the HPC calendar was on Memorial Day—May 28, 2018. As that date draws closer, this meeting could be rescheduled or even cancelled, depending on what is on the HPC's agenda at that time. Budget meetings are beginning for the City Council. HPC is in the city budget at \$600 and \$6000 from the Hotel/Motel Tax Fund for specific, identified, approved needs/projects.

Chairperson's Report—Don Meyer:

April 23, 2018, D.Meyer will be unable to present the update to the City Council. D.Meyer will put the update together but needs someone to present in his absence. Lehmann, as Vice-President, agreed to do this and Newell agreed to present, as well, if needed.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 26, 2018, at 5:15 PM at the Waverly Civic Center.

Submitted by Linda Hovden, Acting Secretary