

Waverly Historic Preservation Commission Minutes Monday, June 4, 2018

The Waverly Historic Preservation Commission met on Monday, June 4, 2018, at 5:15 pm at the Waverly Civic Center Conference Room. This was a week later than the normal date due to Memorial Day.

AGENDA AND BUSINESS:

1. The meeting was called to order by Chair Don Meyer. Other Members Present: Kris Brunkhorst, Glenn Fenneman, Linda Hovden, Karen Lehmann, Mary Meyer. Member Absent: Peter Newell. City Staff Liaison Bill Werger and City Council Liaison Brian Birgen were also present. Guests: Tom Hicks, Jim Hundley.
2. Adoption of the agenda was moved by Fenneman, 2nd by Hovden. Approved.
3. April 2018 minutes were approved as corrected. Moved by Hovden, 2nd by Fenneman.
4. Public Comments: Hundley initiated discussion about the decision to cement the damaged crypt at the Waverly Cemetery, as he had been involved in previous restoration efforts on that site. The crypt had a vaulted (arched) brick ceiling, which may have been one of the last in Iowa. Commissioners were made aware of the deteriorating situation, as per a recent staff report from Werger, and all agreed that timely communications from the city are important in cases where intervention might be appropriate, such as locating an historic renovation expert since the city does not employ such a person. Birgen explained the timeline of the council actions over the past year as the city worked to ensure safety at the cemetery. Commissioners thanked Hundley for his interest and Birgen for the reopened opportunity for dialogue with the city, due to his consistent attendance at WHPC meetings as council liaison.
5. The NACP Forum will be held in Des Moines this July 18-22.
 - D. Meyer and Lehmann have already signed up and will be using the two free registrations the commission received from a grant. They received a letter from the City about applying a government lodging rate to their housing.
 - The opening Plenary session takes place at the Des Moines Scottish Rite Consistory on the evening of Friday, July 20, and all commissioners are invited to attend that session as the WHPL is receiving a national award. At their request, a public announcement of the award is being held until a press release is officially received from NACP after the conference, but anyone can attend the opening without registering.
 - D. Meyer will send commissioners a copy of the award application so everyone can read what was submitted.
 - One of the perks of the award is receiving another free registration: D. Meyer will check on how that works and M. Meyer will be using it to also attend the conference.
 - Other commissioners are considering attendance at the Plenary session, and one-day registrations are also available if anyone wishes to stay.
 - Lehmann will contact Travis Toliver, Chamber Director, and the Waverly Newspapers about additional representation at the award ceremony.
6. Brunkhorst collected information for a preliminary client interest form to be submitted to a class at Wartburg for assistance with historic preservation publications. Jo Dorrance is the college's contact on CA348: Integrated Marketing, and the application process takes place later in the summer. In addition to a potential book about historic Waverly, other possible ideas for utilizing this course were discussed.

7. Waverly's Green Bridge has officially been placed on the National Register of Historic Places, effective March 31, 2018. Notification was just received by the city, and the official title is Third Street SE Bridge (FHWA no. 012250). Lehmann will give information to Paige Yoder for the commission's website. D. Meyer will send a note of thanks on behalf of the WHPC to Marlys Svendsen for her work on this project.
8. M. Meyer will bring information about Waverly's concrete block houses to the July meeting.
9. Lehmann reported on efforts to continue to update the WHPC website. Lehmann contacted Jan Fuller, who wrote the NRHP application for the commercial district, and she located and sent all her site forms and other information about all downtown properties. Other webpage updates, including the possible addition of photos of historic properties, are in progress with the help of Yoder.
10. Werger reported that the Rock Island Depot (formerly a laundromat) is for sale and it is not yet certain whether it will be demolished or restored. Ways to commemorate it, such as markers in the new park, will be considered and historic photographs are being collected. Brunkhorst suggested that Silos & Smokestacks might be interested in it as they focus on historic farming and transportation topics. D. Meyer will check to see if Svendsen has any additional information or photos, since she inventoried Waverly properties affected by the 2008 flood.
11. Fenneman initiated discussion into table tents with historic topics, to be placed in businesses and/of restaurants. He had seen them effectively used in Jefferson, Iowa. This might also be a possible project for the marketing course application.
12. Historic Preservation Month (May) wrap-up:
 - No one has yet applied for a Waverly Historic Preservation Award so commissioners will talk to several local property owners about this topic with the hopes of having an award to give during Heritage Days in July.
 - 4 out of 10 historic photos published in the Waverly Newspapers in May were identified by readers.
 - The mayor's proclamation is visible on the WHPL website on the opening page.

REPORTS:

Council Report: Birgen had nothing additional to report.

Chairperson Report: D. Meyer had nothing additional to report.

Staff Report: Werger had several items:

- Restoration of the CUNA Building in downtown Waverly starts soon. It will include 34 loft apartments, with a mix of sizes and income requirements. The historic lobby will be retained.
- Four historic and stamped bricks from the downtown renovation project were retained and will eventually be on display.
- Bids are yet to come for the South Riverside Park project, so Werger will keep the WHPC apprised of progress as it happens.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:15 pm.

Submitted by Karen Lehmann, Acting Secretary

Note: Rotation for WHPL secretary:

July=Hovden, Followed by: M. Meyer, Fenneman, Newell, Brunkhorst, Lehmann