

Waverly Historic Preservation Commission Minutes Monday, January 28, 2019

The Waverly Historic Preservation Commission met on Monday, January 28, 2019, at 5:15pm at the Waverly Civic Center, in the Conference Room.

In attendance: Kris Brunkhorst, Linda Hovden, Karen Lehmann, Don Meyer, Mary Meyer, Peter Newell. Absent: Glenn Fenneman. Also present, Brian Birgen, City Council liaison, and Bill Werger, Waverly city liaison.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson D. Meyer. The agenda was unanimously adopted, moved by Brunkhorst, second by M. Meyer. November 2018 minutes were adopted as corrected, moved by Lehmann, second by Newell.

AGENDA AND BUSINESS:

1. Hoins House Waverly Historic Preservation Award
 - D. Meyer will submit a copy of the application and the photos from the October presentation to the Waverly newspapers.
 - The house was previously profiled in an article in the paper that can be used for further information as needed.
2. Update on NE Quadrant Historic District
 - A budget request to fund a person to conduct a drive-by survey and file the Iowa Site Form for a northeast national historic district was submitted to the City Council from this commission, to potentially be funded by the hotel/motel tax monies.
 - The commission is planning to hire Rebecca McCarley (SPARK Consulting) for this task. A written quote from her is not needed by the council.
 - The survey would be undertaken in the 2019-2020 budget year.
3. Committee report on historic calendar for 2020 and possible poster reproduction
 - M. Meyer continues to work on selecting photographs and compiling historically accurate information about them for a calendar.
 - Lehmann has checked into local printing, and work can be economically done at the Wartburg College Digital Print Center or by Waverly business ColorFX. Pricing and design information are being collected prior to a decision.
 - The amount of work needed to complete this task will probably not be finished by Historic Preservation Month in May, so calendar completion and sales will be considered for later in 2019.
 - Instead of selling calendars in May, the subcommittee is considering sales of a poster reproduction of an 1868 map of Waverly.
 - Permission has been given by Engelbrecht Law Firm to reproduce a print they own, with the assistance of Amy Moorman, Wartburg College Archivist.
 - Lehmann is checking into details of how and where to reproduce this poster.
 - The subcommittee (Lehmann, M. Meyer, Newell) will meet again to discuss this prior to the next meeting and will add Hovden as they segue into planning for an event in May to celebrate local preservation efforts during National Historic Preservation Month.
4. Rock Island Depot update
 - Werger continues to update the commission on plans for the depot as they are released as public information.
 - The new owners (4 Queens) are interested in the historic aesthetics of the site and building and how to work it into the riverbank, bike trail, nearby park, and proximity to the Bremer Avenue bridge.
5. Reception/celebration for NAPC award with former Commissioners
 - As already mentioned, a subcommittee has been formed to plan a celebration during May.
 - The Waverly Public Library will host this event. There will be an ongoing display of the Waverly Historic Preservation Award posters.
 - The meeting room is reserved for Saturday, May 11, with a tentative open house scheduled from 1-4pm.
 - Further details will be forthcoming.

- It was also noted that 2021 will be the 25th anniversary of the founding of the Historic Preservation Commission, which might play into future public events.
6. Budget requests
- The commission submitted requests to the City Council for funding for the NE district project and for an annual budget amount that matches what is suggested by the State Historic Preservation Office.
 - The council is currently in budget discussions and should act on these requests very soon.
7. Green Bridge update
- D. Meyer met with 3 officials from the State Historic Preservation Office in Des Moines to discuss concerns about whether it might be necessary to de-list the Green Bridge if the city pursues certain types of federal funding or decides to remove the structure.
 - Use of federal funding requires Section 106 review if the bridge were to be potentially removed. To clarify, looking at historic properties would be a part of any bridge project process, regardless of an official national historic preservation register designation.
 - Discussion about the possibility of de-listing the bridge was held. Birgen explained why this was being considered, and Werger questioned what a timetable to de-list would require. The normal sequence for adding historic properties takes 6 months to a year and reversal is probably subject to the same timeframe as meetings of acting bodies are on a specific schedule.
 - There are essentially 3 options. 1-If a decision was made to remove the bridge, the city would eventually notify the register, as per the need for updating register listings, and it would be removed. 2-If a decision was made to replace the bridge, it would be necessary to initiate the process to de-list it. 3-Renovating the historic bridge as listed, which would be price prohibitive, would probably not be the council's choice of solutions. In all cases, Waverly retains the documentation that has been completed regarding the history of the bridge.
 - No decision has been made by city council at the time of this meeting.
 - The commission again reminded Werger that if the bridge is ever removed, that the bid should include the opportunity to preserve some of the structure for historic display purposes.
 - The commission also unanimously passed a motion to go on record to vote to oppose the potential de-listing of the green bridge from the National Historic Register. Moved by Newell, second by Brunkhorst. Werger and Birgen will inform the council of this motion.
8. Other: walking tour brochures
- Brochures are available at the Chamber of Commerce, City Hall, and the Waverly Public Library.
 - They are expensive to reprint, and since the commission has a limited budget, discussion was held about adding them in reproducible online format or other options that are not dependent on commission funds.
 - D. Meyer will discuss this topic with Travis Toliver at the Chamber.
 - M. Meyer will provide the original pdfs as needed since she designed the brochures.

REPORTS:

Council Report: Birgen had nothing additional to report.

Chairperson Report: D. Meyer noted that local architect Andrew Bell would be willing to present a public workshop on historic tax credits. This would assist the commission's goal to provide public education on historic preservation topics. Bell also mentioned that he looked for commercial district site forms on the website and it was discovered they have not yet been posted so Lehmann will contact the city about adding links.

Staff Report: Werger updated the commissioners on the plans for the next phase in the South Riverside Park project, which includes the restoration of the Farmer's Exchange building. He also noted that the Bremer Avenue Bridge is scheduled to have maintenance by the state in 2022-23, which may impact a decision on the green bridge situation.

The meeting adjourned at 6:45pm. The next meeting is scheduled for **February 25, 2019 at 5:15 pm**, at the Civic Center.

Submitted by Karen Lehmann, Acting Secretary

Note: Rotation for WHPL secretary:

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