

Historic Preservation Commission Minutes
Thursday, June 25th, 2009 at 5:30 p.m.
Waverly Public Library Conference Room

Members Present: James Hundley, Kathryn Payne, Karen Lehmann, Mary Meyer, Lester Zelle, Geneva Liebau

Members Absent: 0

Seat Vacant:1

Council Present: Cyndi Ecker

Also present: Beth Paulsen, Sarah Meyer-Reyerson

Visitors: Erika Lindgren, Ann Ingman, Dick Crayne, Ben Kehout, Mary Lou Kelly, 2 other community members

Call to order at 5:35 p.m.

Approval of minutes:

Lehmann moved to accept minutes.

Lindgren seconded.

Yes: 6 No: 0 Absent: 0

Old business:

1. Marker project~ Meyer-Reyerson stated that in September the commission must state how the grant money has been spent.
There was discussion on wording and which picture to be used. Paulsen will edit the preferred picture and potentially use it instead of original choice.
2. Plaques will be here for Heritage Days. Meyer-Reyerson will contact homeowners that will be given a place at the Heritage Days event.

Regular business:

1. Iowa Movie Theater Project is underway and seeking help in documenting any theaters in Iowa (existing or non-existing). Zelle agreed to finish the research as he had already gathered quite a bit of information for a previous project.
2. HPC projects & preparation for the agreement with FEMA
Introductions of all involved in the meeting were made for the public attending. Payne stated that the commission now needs to create a list of ideas for projects we would like to see done in compensation for Waverly's historic losses during the flood of 2008.
Kelly asked what the rules would be if a district were set up.
Payne responded by stating that no rules would be in place, only boundaries.
Kelly asked if a certain buyout home were moved would it still be potentially eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.
Payne responded that it would still be eligible if it still meets the requirements.
Payne explained that Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 triggered this process, and then explained again the findings of the Historic Architects from Iowa Homeland security in their survey done post flood.

Payne explained that the money Waverly would receive is not due to the commission asking for the money but as a mandatory result of federal money being used to buyout historic properties in Waverly.

Kelly asked if the house shown in the recent article in the local paper would be livable and would it have to be raised up.

Kehout stated that surveyors would be used to determine what would need to be done.

Ingman asked what she could do to get on the National Register of Historic Places and what the next step would be.

Payne explained what the Architectural Historians from Iowa Homeland Security would be doing to help that process.

Payne stated that two of the first items in the commissions list should be to nominate the NW district and individually eligible homes in that district and to nominate the SE district and individually eligible homes in that district.

Lehmann added that next should be to survey and nominate the business district in Waverly. And survey and nominate individually eligible properties in any other quadrants of Waverly.

Lehmann suggested the next item would be to move, deconstruct or salvage buyout properties. As well, she suggested that Waverly residents be given priority on the salvaged materials.

Liebau suggested we add to the list, funds for the Sturdevant home.

Next it was suggested that education be provided for the community on flood preparation for historic properties.

Next it was suggested that education be provided for repair of historic properties.

Meyer suggested more general historic preservation education be provided as well, that would also communicate what resources are available for preservation.

Hundley suggested we add to the list plaques and signs for the historic districts once they are listed on a National Register of Historic Places.

Liebau suggested brochures as well for the listed districts.

Lehmann suggested publications or guides as well of all neighborhoods.

Next it was suggested that education be provided for historic landscaping in Waverly.

Next it was suggested that we request funds for the Bremer County Historic Museum.

Crayne asked if salvage is done of a Waverly home where then are the items stored.

Hundley responded that there are currently three sites: Waterloo, Cedar Rapids and Mason City, but The commission should pursue getting a site locally.

Crayne commented that the time frame on salvaging, moving or deconstructing a buyout property would be controlled by INRCOG who manages the process for the city.

Kehout stated that once the city is in possession of the property there is a 3 month time frame to decide what would be done with the property.

Lehmann stated that we should ask for full documentation on a number of properties.

Payne suggested we begin prioritizing the list now created by the commission. That list is as follows:

Preservation Project List (in priority order)

1. Nominate the Northwest Historic District and the Southeast Historic District, and finish the work of nominating individually NRHP-eligible properties within those districts.
2. Move, deconstruct, and salvage Waverly flood buyout homes before demolition. Create a salvage site in Waverly and give Waverly residents priority. Conduct a full historical documentation of the homes that will be lost due to the buyout.
3. Conduct an historic survey of Waverly's business district – both East Bremer and West Bremer. Nominate the business district as an historic district.
4. Survey and nominate Waverly properties outside the defined historic districts, which are individually eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.
5. Offer educational seminars on topics such as "flood preparation for historic properties" and "repair of historic properties".
6. Organize an educational system for historic preservation in general (historic landscapes, etc.).
7. Create a professional publication documenting the history of Waverly's neighborhoods.
Purchase signs and/or plaques for designated historic neighborhoods.
8. Obtain financial support for the Ira Sturdevant home and the Bremer County Historical Museum.

Hundley moved that the meeting adjourn at 7:30 p.m.

Zelle seconded.

Yes: 6

No: 0

Absent: 0

The next meeting will be July 23rd at 5:30 p.m. in the conference room of the Waverly Public Library.