



LINN COUNTY HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

935 Second Street SW • Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52404 • 319-892-5141

Minutes
August 15, 2018

Members Present

Maura Pilcher
Patricia Soukup
Amanda Happel
Connie Robinson
Brent Harstad
Dick Thomas
Nancy Goodlove

Absent

Michael LeClere

Staff Present

Mike Tertinger, Staff Liaison
Jill Mathey, Staff Recording Secretary

Call to Order

Chair Maura Pilcher called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM

Public Comment

None

Announcements / Communication

Pilcher distributed some information on upcoming Alburnett Historical Society events.

Soukup informed the commissioners that there is a Save CR Heritage meet and greet at the Softball Hall of Fame and the Flamingo Restaurant Friday August 17 from 5:30-8:30.

Tertinger reminded the commissioners that the CLG grant closes on August 31, 2018.

Tertinger said the LC Board of Supervisors approved the Scholarship Grant reimbursement, the money will go to Paula Moore, and if she approves, will reimburse the commissioners that attended the July Forum in Des Moines.

Tertinger said the HPC vacancy to replace Mary Ottoson will be posted on the Linn County



Website, and said if anyone has any recommendations , to have them contact Linn County or fill out an on line application.

Tertinger reminded the members to please RSVP to let him or the recording secretary Jill Mathey know if you attending the meeting or not, as we are required to have a quorum for these meetings.

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Goodlove second by Soukup, those present voting aye, to approve the minutes of the June 20, 2018 Historic Preservation Commission meeting as amended.

Budget

There were expenditures of \$ 0 during July, leaving an operating budget of \$9545.00. There is \$12,200.00 remaining in the HPC Grant Program budget, as of July 31, 2018.

Tertinger said if the HPC is planning to request money left over from last year's budget in the fall, they will need to submit some type of justification.

New Business

Recap of Forum 2018 Conference (Amanda & Maura)

Pilcher said the Des Moines forum was well done and was one of the best and most informative conferences she has been to.

Happel said the forum was great, she learned a lot, met several new people from other Historical Societies and did a lot of networking.

Happel said she received a preservation booklet of acronyms at the Conference, which is a great reference piece.

Happel suggested that the LCHPC do more networking with other Historical Societies, meet more people, and share ideas, discuss issues etc.

Pilcher said this should be easy to do once the re-designed LCHPC Web site is up and running, and suggested this could be a goal for next year's preservation month.

FY19 Work plan

Pilcher explained they are trying to align the work plan with the Fiscal year, which is July to June, it will be the F19 work plan and Pilcher said she would like to make it a living document that could be updated as needed.

Pilcher reviewed the current 2018 Work Plan Objectives and updates.

Provide education about and alternatives to the demolition of NRHP and eligible properties in Linn County:

Soukup asked the members if they were in favor of supporting “in name only” other Historical Preservation commission’s demolitions and/or at risk buildings. After a group discussion, they decided it would be ok to do this, but they would be decided on a case-by-case basis.

Soukup said she is working on this, and is looking at City of the Cedar Rapids preservation briefs, demo review and guidelines as examples.

Tertinger will work with Soukup and research other jurisdictions procedures and will give an update at the next HPC meeting.

Tertinger said he would work with Soukup to draft an ordinance, and set a timeline to complete this item.

Thomas said he would get the group information on the City of Mt Vernon’s demo review process.

Section 106 Review:

No updates.

Advance the RPI:

No update on the Coggon nomination at this time.

See above for **NAPA Forum update** .

Lincoln Highway Kiosks condition updates :

Lisbon-Goodlove; kiosk in great shape, building needs some work.

Mt Vernon-Thomas; kiosk in great shape.

Abbe Creek-Pilcher; kiosk in great shape.

Squaw Creek Park- Happel; kiosk looks great in the front, back is faded and needs some painting. Happel said a couple of the pictures are very blurry.

Thomas Park- Harstad; did not inspect yet, will have update at September meeting.

Lincoln Heights-Pilcher; kiosk in good shape, but they need to mow around the concrete.

Haskell Park-Harstad: kiosk in good shape.

West Post Rd-Soukup; did not inspect yet, but will have an update at the September meeting.

Tertinger said to make sure and email pictures and inspections with the date inspected, and any applicable comments or notes and results to him.

National Register presentation to Alburnett Historical Society (Maura)

Pilcher said she spoke to the Alburnett Historical Society on July 26, and said they were very receptive and interested the National Register nomination.

Pilcher said she was excited that she got to tour the second floor of the building, and told the group it is very interesting, with a lot of history, and due to what is referred to as “preservation by neglect “, it may be eligible for the nomination.

Education for Young students

Soukup requested this get put on hold at this time.

Fund and promote training opportunities for Commission members to attend state-approved historic preservation training.

Happel asked if anyone knew of any on-line training opportunities at this time.

Tertinger said he usually hears about them from Paula Mohr, with the State Historical Society of Iowa, and suggested she contact her directly.

Tertinger will get Happel Mohr’s contact information.

Grant Project Update:

Soukup gave an update on her grant project; hiring a company who will use ground-penetrating radar to identify graves in the Fairfax cemetery, and told the group when they searched the cemetery, they discovered 12 unmarked graves with bodies in them, and some graves that were marked, but had no bodies in them.

Soukup will continue to do research to try to identify and be able to have some sort of marker on the unmarked graves, some may never be able to be identified, but will still be marked that someone is actually buried there.

Soukup also said she has members of the public helping her take pictures to put on the Iowa Gravestones site.

Soukup said a local Eagle Scout and other members are going to help with trimming trees, mowing, pulling weeds etc. at the cemetery.

Motion by Thomas second by Soukup, those present voting aye, to adjourn the meeting.

Next Meeting

September 19, 2018

Adjournment - The meeting adjourned at 4:55 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Approved,

Jill Mathey, Recording Secretary

Maura Pilcher, Chair