

Muscatine County Historic Preservation Commission Minutes of Meeting on Thursday, September 20, 2018

The Muscatine County Historic Preservation Commission (MCHPC) met at 12:00 p.m. on September 20 at the County Administration Building with commissioners Becky Allgood, Lynn Pruitt, Jim Nepple, Lisa Wertzbaugher. Mary Beveridge, Tom Furlong and Brian Wright present. Bill Koellner was excused. Also present was Sherry Seright.

The Treasurer's report was unchanged from the August meeting, when Tom Furlong presented a printed copy of the Treasurer's report.

Mary reported that there would be a meeting of the Friends' Group of the Historic Jail in late October. At the present time Lynn Pruitt, Bette Schneider, JoAnn Carlson and Brian Wright will be at the meeting. Mary will also contact Randy Naber about the meeting. Lisa said she would email Jeff Boling at Kent Corporation about funding. Lisa said we should submit an HRDP grant request for the Historic Jail by April 1. Jim said that if a project is denied a grant the first time, we should resubmit our request several times.

Jim reported on Planning for Preservation. He said we should find out in January about CLG's. Jim said he went to the Heritage meeting, which is the umbrella group for about 5 or 6 groups, including the Friends of the Old Barn, the Friends of the Grist Mill, Rural Schools and the Genealogical Society. Jim will contact the Genealogical Society about the Status of Preservation.

Lisa reported on the Fairgrounds Project. She said the Harvest Hall is to be a new building and is now fully funded. Bids will be reviewed next week, and work will begin in early spring. Some materials can be torn up and reused in the new building. Otherwise, there has been little communication from the Fair Board. The Board reported it wants more information on future construction plans so they can review the plans.

Jim said a 501(c)(5) is finished for the Fairgrounds. It is for non-profits and no taxes are levied. Funds will go through the Community Foundation.

Becky reported on Downtown Wilton. She said the Star Drug Store has removed a window, which will be put back on so there will be 4 windows as before. Obtaining tax credits has been a long process, but once received, they can start with other projects. She said art work on the buildings will come in 2019 as a painter has already been designated for then. She said facades must be completed before storeowners can work on interiors. So storeowners are anxious to complete the facades. She mentioned tax restrictions for public buildings.

Becky discussed progress on her own Victorian home in Wilton.

Lynn reported that we are awaiting a SNARK meeting on the Old Barn.

Lynn reported on the Downtown Nichols project. They have already received about \$900.00, which is being held by the Community Foundation. Lynn is also involved with the Friends Group in Nichols. He said Jennifer Price is coming back to Nichols October 16 to check on the buildings. A \$5 500.00 grant has been received. Lynn showed the REAP-HRDP metal plaque he has received and 8 window decals.

Lynn reported there are two more TAN projects in the future: homes and churches in Nichols.

Lisa reported on the status of Downtown West Liberty. They did not get the CDBG grant but will work on it and will find another person to work on it. They have gathered enough information to reapply in April.

Fundraising is a hurdle, particularly getting commitments. One must show funds in the bank, including pledges. The city has the contract and the easement. The city is definitely involved in the decision-making. They will reapply for funding. Bill and Lisa have a 2-year commitment, which will expire in December 2018.

There was some discussion of CLG money, TIF money and CAT grants. Also discussed were issues involving city or town monies vs. County monies. There are issues or problems with auditors. Money or funding from private donors is another matter.

Commissioners reluctantly accepted the resignation of Bette Schneider. Lisa Seright said she had received an application, which would be voted on by the Board of Supervisors.

Lynn said we would need to submit our goals when applying for a CLG grant. We discussed a handout, which will serve as our Mission Statement and be put on a website. It was decided to delete the words within the parentheses.

Jim also said those working on the Historic Jail should first meet with Charla Schaefer of the Community Foundation.

Lynn said there is to be a conference on Rural Schools September 28-29. He will attend 1 day of the event.

Lynn reminded commissioners of an Old Barn Tour this weekend. Electricity to the Old Barn has been restored.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:15 p.m.

The next meeting will be **Thursday October 18** at the County Administration Building.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Beveridge
Muscatine County Historic Preservation Commission