

Muscatine County Historic Preservation Commission

OFFICIAL MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, January 17, 2019 at Noon

Muscatine County Admin Building

Members Present: Rebeckah (Becky) Allgood, Jim Nepple, Lynn Pruitt, Mary Beveridge, Brian Wright and Jane Daufeldt Also Present: Sherry Seright

Members Absent and Excused, Lisa Wertzbaugher, Tom Furlong and Bill Koellner

1. Order of Business

- A. Reviewed Minutes from November 15, 2018 meeting. Motion to accept minutes by Jim, seconded by Lynn and approved.
- B. Treasurer's Report was read by Sherry Seright, who reported balance of \$16,847.55 with Motion to accept treasurer's report, seconded and approved.
- C. Tim Nichols of the Muscatine County Fair Board spoke about Fairgrounds plans, both present and future, and distributed plans and spoke about the Heritage Hall, the Kent Foundation donations, proposed plans for the Show Ring north of the Swine Barn with new livestock, including goats, and plans for existing buildings that may or may not have historical significance. He invited our thoughts and suggestions. The presently favored plan is to construct a new Show Ring and building in place of the Calf Barn and a Livestock Campus in place of 3 older structures.
- D. On the status of the Historic Jail, Mary reported that she had contacted Lisa about fundraising opportunities for the next phases of the restoration process, but she has had no response. When Susan Kloewer visited Muscatine in December 2017, she distributed information about grants and resources from the Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs, After speaking with Susan Kloewer, Mary was encouraged by her interest in the Historic Jail as an archival repository and along with encouragement from Tim Walch's training session which helped us to focus attention on the Jail as the best repository for the county, she is anxious to proceed with the project.
- E. Jim reported that he will be meeting with Charla Schafer at the Community Foundation and stressed the importance of keeping all funds for historic preservation projects with the Community Foundation.
- F. Planning for Preservation. Jim suggested we refocus our attention and narrow our scope to make it more specific. Examples might to focus on rural churches, rural schools or rural cemeteries. He said Jennifer Price might be available, if we decided to explore obtaining an HRDP grant. Jim also wondered we could tap the unencumbered fund. He reminded us that April 19 is the deadline for Planning for Preservation grants.
- G. Lynn reported on the status of the Old Barn. He said its nomination has been approved by the State.

H. Lynn reported on the nomination process in Nichols and said that it has been delayed 3 months before it goes to the SNRC meeting. He said the Nichols Friends Group has raised \$3,250 of their \$5,000 goal. The HRDP grant is in process and the local cost share is \$1,933.

I. Becky reported on the status of the Wilton Downtown facade upgrade.

J. Lynn distributed a 2019 Work Plan for the Commission with information about membership, meetings and a listing of projects with a brief description of goals and objectives for each. It is a “work in progress” and additional information could be added.

2. Open Discussion

There were suggestions about public awareness. Sherry Seright suggested the Commission might consider regular press releases about their work and Jane said she would investigate Facebook pages and the City Pages. Sherry also suggested regular updates to the County website.

Mary suggested the Commission might become more involved in spreading information about local history and the importance of historic preservation, particularly in the high school and the community college. She also suggested providing assemblies and/or working with teachers, impressing on them the importance of historic preservation and local history, both of which are often absent from the school curriculum.

Jim, Lynn and Becky are scheduled to be presenters at this year’s Preserve Iowa Summit, which will be held June 5-7 in Newton. Jim and Lynn will do a joint presentation about Fundraising at the Summit.

Meeting adjourned at 1:16 p.m. Next meeting date – **Thursday, February 21, 2019 at noon at the County Administration Office.**

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Beveridge

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