

Muscatine County Historic Preservation Commission

OFFICIAL MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, March 21, 2019 at Noon

Muscatine County Admin Building

Lynn Pruitt called the meeting to order at 12:04 p.m. Members present were Lynn Pruitt, Lisa Wertzbaugher, Mary Beveridge, Tom Furlong and Jane Daufeldt. Also present was Sherry Seright. Absent were Jim Nepple, Bill Koellner, Rebeckah Allgood and Brian Wright.

February Minutes were reviewed and approved, with motion by Tom and seconded by Jane.

Tom Furlong reported a balance of \$4,683.00 with a State of Iowa grant received of \$2,750.00, which pays the consultant. The unencumbered balance is \$10,864.55. Treasurer’s report was approved, with motion by Jane and seconded by Mary.

Sherry talked with Charla Schafer at the Community Foundation about fundraising. If fees for consultants of our projects are combined, only one fee of \$100 will be assessed. All donations will be addressed to the Community Foundation with the notation of the particular project. Similarly, all invoices should be submitted to the Foundation for payment.

Mary and Lynn reported on the status of the Historic Jail. The Community Foundation Impact Grant application is due by the beginning of next week. Letters of support will be included from individuals and local groups will be included with the grant application. Anticipated is a joint agreement with the Muscatine Historic Preservation Commission and its Friends Group. Sherry said that 3 or 4 letters of support would be sufficient.

After we receive pledges for the Historic Jail’s restoration totaling \$5,000, we can hire a consultant. Commissioners agreed to hire Michael Nolan to put together a proposal. Once the proposal is received and accepted, we can put the proposal on the agenda of the County Board of Supervisors and proceed with the second phase of the Historic Jail restoration. Mary reported that the next meeting of the Historic Jail Friends Group is scheduled Wednesday noon, March 27th at the library and would like to see more commissioners and interested friends present.

Lynn reported that the Historic Bridge in West Liberty is in mitigation. Residents agreed that \$42,000.50 would be allocated as the local cash share to be put with rural schools and churches. Leah Rogers is the consultant and her fee is about \$13,000. A budget will be prepared and Lynn has a projected budget he is working on. \$18,337.00 is the current projected target for the project. The County has a “buy in” with the project. We now have more than what is necessary,” he said. Then “in kind” donations will be collected, showing commitment to the project. The historic bridge will be included in the country schools and churches application, which has an April 19th deadline.

Reporting on the status of the Fairgrounds, Lisa has talked with Tim Nichols and said that we need a new Show Ring and the group has money and donors and are trying to raise more money. The current projected plan is to keep all buildings and then focus on the Swine Show Ring. Lisa feels the project is on the right track. A main improvement will be the concrete, as a mud surface makes it difficult for wheelchair access and even for small animals. Lisa said they are including in the project money for eventually replacing the swine pavilion with a horse barn and ring. Donations are still coming in for the Fairgrounds and more and more people appreciate the Commission’s involvement. As the Heritage Hall is almost completed, future plans are for the Amphitheatre,

especially for the stairs. Lisa suggested they could write for an HRDP grant for stabilization of that one structure.

Reporting on the status of the Old Barn, Lynn said a commemorative plaque should be the next project even if no help is received from the county. The Friends group might fund the plaque.

Lynn reported on the Nichols project. He said Jennifer Price is working on this and will submit a proposal in early April.

Lisa reported on Downtown West Liberty. She said the City of West Liberty has dissolved the Downtown Task Force, so the project has ended.

In other business, Jane was asked to update the city and county Visitors Guide. The Old Stone Church should be put into the Visitors Guide. Suggestions to focus on Muscatine's historic churches were discussed. It was agreed that the project should be a task for the Muscatine Historic Preservation Commission.

Our next meeting will be April 18. Lisa will take the minutes. Motion to adjourn was made by Jane and seconded by Tom. Meeting adjourned at 12:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Beveridge