

Muscatine County Historic Preservation Commission

OFFICIAL MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, April 8, 2020 at noon

Virtual Meeting via GoToMeeting due to Covid-19 Restrictions

The meeting was facilitated by Bill Riley, Information Services Director for Muscatine County

The link for the meeting via computer, tablet, or smartphone:

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/843532165>

See attachment from Iowa Public Information Board or go to:

<https://www.ipib.iowa.gov/>

I. Order of Business

The meeting was called to order by Koellner at 12:00 PM via a GoToMeeting Application for phone and computer. Those present on the app were: Bill Riley (facilitator/ administrator); Commissioner: Koellner, Daufeldt, Wertzbaugher, Eagle, Allgood, Pruitt, Ochiltree, Beveridge, and Bosten

A. Review March 11, 2020 meeting minutes (Daufeldt)

Minutes approved as submitted -Moved by Allgood, seconded by Ochiltree – all unanimously approved.

B. Treasurer Report (Allgood)

The report was not available- no report.

C. Meeting reviews by members since last meeting (All)

No meetings to report from the commissioners.

D. Status, discussion and possible action of Historic Jail Museum/Archive including final architectural plans and fund-raising strategy (Wertzbaugher and Mike Nolan)

Wertzbaugher reported that there were no meetings with possible donors due to Covid-19 social distancing. She is focusing on planning for grants- completed a grant request with Greater Muscatine Community Foundation. Started working on HRDP application for 2021- it usually takes a year to complete. The HRDP requires significant data for approval due to matching requirements. There could be some leverage from the architectural expenses as a match for a HRDP grant this year.

E. Discussion and possible action on update on Field Services Grant for potential project (Historic neighborhoods in West Liberty and Wilton) from Planning for Preservation – (Allgood & Koellner)

Still waiting for results from the consultant. Allgood will follow up with Tallgrass

F. Discussion and possible action on CLG Grant for County Schools and Churches including review and approval of Consultant RFP (Koellner, Pruitt and Daufeldt) (Wapsi Valley and Tallgrass proposals and spreadsheet comparison)

Daufeldt reported that there were five consultants that were contacted for RFPs.

Wapsi Valley and Tallgrass were the only responses and these were evaluated by Pruitt and Daufeldt. It was their recommendation that Tallgrass be hired to complete the CLG grant for Rural Schools and Churches in Muscatine County. It was moved by Pruitt and seconded by Beverage to recommend hiring Tallgrass. All present voted yes unanimously. The recommendation will need to be approved by the supervisors.

G. Status of NRHP nomination for Nichols Historic Commercial District; Field Services Report on Nichols Saint Mary's Church; and future work on other Nichols Historic Churches and Nichols Family Homes (Pruitt)

Jennifer Price, consultant has completed a Field Services report on St. Mary's Church and is currently evaluating it for National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) eligibility. Other churches and Nichols Family homes in Nichols are still pending Field Service reports. The Downtown Commercial District has been nominated as a Historic District. We may know if the nomination is approved at the June 12, 2020 State Nominations Review Committee (SNRC) meeting

H. Update of discussion and possible action on protecting historic building(s) at Fairport State Fish Hatchery including DNR's March 9 Public Meeting on proposed demolition of historic boiler and pumphouse building, and our possible listing of this building on the National Register of Historic Places. (Pruitt & Eagle)

The National Button Museum paid the money for an engineer to evaluate the structure of the historic pumphouse building on the property. The findings were:

1. Structurally the building is sound and foundation is in tact
2. The flat roofs on the south and north sides of the building will need repaired or replaced
3. The structure will need tuckpointing and some of the bowing in walls will need to be fixed.

There building sits in a Flood Way which may make it harder to gain approval, but there are other similar buildings that have been restored, like Pearl City Station on the riverfront in the City of Muscatine.

Discussion took place about making accommodations for displays areas above the waterline. Because the building is not occupied approval is easier because the high water can flow through the building as it has in the past 100 years.

Eagle will share the engineering report with the DNR, owners of the property. Consultant, Rebecca Mc Carley, with SPARK, has been working with Eagle on other Button Industry buildings.

It was suggested that Eagle and Mc Carley work on a Field Services Grant to see if it is eligible for the historic register status. Further it was suggested that the Field Services grant include the entire property because of the historic barn that dates to the active fishery.

Motion by Eagle and seconded by Pruitt to hire Rebecca Mc Carley to complete a Field Services Grant for \$100 (our cost) to include the entire property. All voted in favor of the expenditure. Pruitt will request the expenditure be present to the Board of Supervisors for their approval once we receive a proposal from McCarley.

Eagle will contact Mc Carley and inform the Randy Shults with DNR at the Brighton office of Fish and Wildlife.

I. Explore HRDP Grants -- up to \$50,000 -- Application due May 1, 2020

Wertzbaugher will contact Paula Mohr to see if the architectural fees paid to Mike Nolan could be eligible as a match for the old jail to date and if it could be considered for this year's HRDP grant funding cycle. She will also check on CLG at the same time.

Motion by Beverage and seconded by Allgood to have Wertzbaugher proceed with investigation of HRDP and CLG with Paula Mohr.

Wertzbaugher will up the members of this commission via email with her findings.

J. Upcoming meetings

The Iowa Historic Preservation Summit meeting this year will be conducted via the internet. More info to follow.

2. Open Discussion

Eagle reported that the Mc Kee Button company was nominated as a National Historic site.

3. Confirm next meeting date and location – May 13

More than likely the meeting for May will also be held through "Go To Meeting" software

Adjourned at 12:45PM



www.ipib.iowa.gov

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NEWS RELEASE

March 11, 2020

Open Meetings: Electronic Meetings for a Governmental Body

With Iowa cases of novel coronavirus, COVID-19, the Iowa Public Information Board (IPIB) has been asked how a governmental body can hold open meetings and still protect the public from the possible spread of the virus.

Iowa Code section 21.8 outlines the guidelines to hold an electronic meeting when there are valid concerns that an in-person meeting is **“impossible or impractical”**.

To hold an electronic meeting **all** of the following must occur:

1. Public access to the conversation of the meeting must be available.
2. The provisions of section 21.4 (notice) must be followed. (The place of the meeting is the place from which the communication originates or where public access is provided to the conversation.)
3. Minutes must be kept and must include a statement explaining why an in-person meeting was impossible or impractical.

Iowa Code section 21.4 provides the requirements that **must** be followed if an emergency meeting with less than 24 hours notice is held:

1. If 24 hours notice is impossible or impracticable, provide as much notice as reasonably possible.
2. The nature of the good cause for holding the meeting without 24 hours notice must be stated in the minutes of the meeting.

The IPIB recommends that you discuss how and when to hold an electronic meeting with your legal counsel. You may also contact the IPIB to discuss ways to be safe and transparent through the IPIB website (www.ipib.iowa.gov) or by telephone (515-725-1781).