

## Muscatine County Historic Preservation Commission Minutes of Meeting on Thursday, May 17, 2018

The Muscatine County Historic Preservation Commission (MCHPC) met at 12:00 p.m. on May 17 with commissioners Becky Allgood, Lynn Pruitt, Mary Beveridge, Tom Furlong, Bill Koellner, Bette Schneider and Brian Wright present. Jim Nepple and Lisa Wertzbaugher were excused. Also present was Sherry Seright.

Chair Becky Allgood called the meeting to order and minutes of the April 19 meeting were approved as corrected. Minutes of the special meeting on May 7 were also approved. Sherry Seright reported for Treasurer and said there was no change in the Treasurer's report.

April meeting minutes had noted a walk-through of the Historic Jail at the end of the May meeting, but Sherri Seright said that no walk-through had been scheduled and Oscar would not be at work today. There will, however, be a visit to view the work to date this Friday at 2 p.m. Mary and Brian indicated they would attend the tour guided by Michael Nolan. Sherry added that during excavation work in the Jail, workers had discovered (or uncovered) a newspaper dated from 1938.

Mary reported on the status of the Historic Jail brochure work. The brochure would help to alert county residents of the work and scope of the project and would also be aimed at arousing membership interest in a "Friends of the Historic Jail" group. Mary took the template Lynn had prepared with suggestions by Paul Carroll. She read a shorter and more targeted version of the brochure and also a list of guidelines she had prepared for writing letters to potential donors. These were distributed to commissioners and Lynn will include suggestions in his template for a brochure and consult Sherry Seright, as she has a template for a tri-fold brochure. Once we have a brochure we can proceed with meeting arrangements and writing letters with brochures to potential donors. Mary will contact Jim Nepple about commissioners' involvement in the Friends Group and will also contact Joni Axel, as she helped to obtain the listing on the National Register in 1974. Bette will contact JoAnn Carlson and invite her to join the Friends Group. After the Friends Group comes together with at least 5 people, they can designate a chair and a treasurer and collect checks to be made payable to the Community Foundation. Judy at the Foundation will send the group a packet of information.

Mary and Bette reported on plans for a "Friends of the Historic Jail" group and said they will contact potential members to start the group. Hopefully, JoAnn Carlson and Joni Axel will join.

Lynn addressed the Historic Country Schools, Churches and Cemeteries in Muscatine County and distributed a draft of the scope of the work. Lynn had been in contact with Paula Mohr in Des Moines, who made suggestions and comments for further action. Sherry said we should always use the phrase "discussion and possible action," instead of motions for acceptance. This phrase should also be noted on our Meeting Agenda.

The National Preservation Caucus is being held in Des Moines July 18-22. As it is a national caucus, it is more costly this year: registration is \$250. Mary and Becky will plan to attend. Bill Koellner reported on the West Liberty Downtown Façade Grant (CDBG). The CDBG paperwork was

submitted to Des Moines for evaluation and competition for money from the \$500 000 (CDBG) grant. We will not know the results until after the beginning of the Fiscal Year, and most likely not until August. The West Liberty Downtown Task Force has issued a press release regarding the various owners participating in the grant.

Bill also reported on the Muscatine County Fairgrounds. A grant for \$50,000 has been received from Ryan Trust to replace Heritage Hall. Heritage Hall is beyond repair as it presently stands. A new building will be a facsimile of the present building. The Ryan grant requires a match of \$50,000. The \$50,000 match will be made up of \$10,000 gift from CBI Bank and \$20,000 redistribution of funds in the restoration account at CFGM. The balance of \$20,000 will be solicited from donors who have an interest in the Heritage Hall. Bill reported some initial estimates for the Heritage Hall. The Heritage Hall will cost around \$100,000. Pending reinstatement of tax-exempt status, any donations made to the Heritage Hall at the Muscatine County Fairgrounds will be made to the Community Foundation with the tag line Muscatine County Fairgrounds Heritage Hall.

Bill said the present show ring is small and lacks space for showing animals and spectator seating. A new show ring has shown strong interest by an anonymous family and Kent Feeds. The anonymous donor will contribute \$50,000 to the new show ring and have naming rights. They have selected a Family name, which will be unveiled within a month. Kent Feeds will contribute \$144,000 over a two-year period and the show ring aligns with their company purposes. A press release will be released within a month regarding both these gifts and the timeframe for construction.

The Muscatine County Fair Board voted to not sell any of the MC Fairgrounds to a local corporate entity. A letter was sent to the corporation and the City of West Liberty regarding their intentions. Members of MCHPC called Paula Mohr and a member of the Iowa Economic Development Commission to inform these state organizations of the decision.

Becky reported on the Downtown Wilton project and said that the Candy Kitchen is almost completed.

Lynn reported on the Old Barn and said that Jennifer Price should be completing the paperwork for its nomination. MPW has been working on the installation of water. Lynn also said that Nichols is trying to set up a Friends Group.

There was some discussion about letterheads and envelopes for the Muscatine County Historic Preservation Commission. Becky and Sherry will look into this and also look into business cards.

Our next meeting will be **Thursday, June 21 at 12 noon at the County Administration building in Muscatine.** The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mary Beveridge

Muscatine County Historic Preservation Commission