

Muscatine County Historic Preservation Commission

OFFICIAL MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, June 20, 2019 at Noon

Muscatine County Admin Building

Lynn Pruitt called the meeting to order at 12:15 p.m. Members present were Lynn Pruitt, Lisa Wertzbaugher, Jim Nepple, Mary Beveridge, Bill Koellner and Jane Daufeldt. Also present was Sherry Seright. Becky Allgood and Tom Furlong were excused.

May Minutes were reviewed and approved as amended (moved by Bill and seconded by Jane).

Sherry reported that the Treasurer's Report of \$10 864.55, will include a check written to Jennifer Price for the Nichols project. Treasurer's report was approved with motion by Jim and seconded by Bill.

Regarding the Community Foundation and keeping the individual accounts up to date, Sherry said she would be meeting with Charla to set up a spreadsheet to facilitate our bookkeeping. Lynn said that Sherry would also track the individual group accounts.

Mary and Lynn reported on the status of the Historic Jail. With a Community Foundation Impact Grant and several other donations, the Friends Group is working to raise its initial target of \$5 000 so we can ask Michael Nolan to put together a design proposal and proceed with the second phase of the jail restoration. Lisa presented a fund-raising plan at the Friends' Group meeting today. Anticipated is a joint agreement with the Muscatine Historic Preservation Commission and its Friends Group. Devin Petit is taking over for Michael Maharry as chair of the Muscatine Commission and its Friends Group.

Reporting on the Status of a Planning for Preservation grant for County Schools and Churches, Lynn said they should be hearing from the state by the end of June about an HRDP grant.

Bill reported on the status of the Fairgrounds project. He said our Commission's involvement has been good for the Fair Board and the Muscatine County Fair. Heritage Hall is completed and the saw mill will be moved and a new building added. The Show Ring for hogs and horses will be a new metal building with a canopy. Decisions on other buildings will be made soon.

Lynn has talked with Jennifer Price, who will be submitting the nomination for Downtown Nichols as a Historic District by June 27. Planning will include 2 more TAN grants for family homes and churches in Nichols. Lynn said the local group covers Jennifer Price's mileage for TAN Grants and the state pays the remaining amount.

Becky and Lynn were presenters at the recent Historic Summit in Newton. Lynn's presentation on fundraising, along with Representative Steve King's on historic tax credits, went very well, and Lynn brought a brochure from the meeting for which he will try to obtain a PDF file.

In Open Discussion:

In Downtown West Liberty, the local Chamber has taken over the preservation work downtown to keep up the momentum. Lisa suggested that someone from West Liberty might join our Commission. It was also announced that the Historic Summit in June 2020 would be in Dubuque.

Jim said he understood that changes with the NPS (National Park Service) concern the NPS and the state but not our local groups.

Lynn said he would talk with Becky about HRDP grants in the County and CLG grants that might be coming up.

Bill brought up the topic of signage in the county for schools and churches. Mary said she would like Muscatine to adopt standardized signage and cited Decorah as an example. She also said that vertically-oriented signage would be preferable both practically and aesthetically.

Kelly Rowe, a salesman with windows/siding in the Quad Cities (Marvin Windows), is looking for opportunities in our area and will also provide advice. He said that some replicating of historic windows is permissible with historic preservation. Kelly said they work very closely with the NPS rules.

Lynn said the NPS talked about windows at the Newton summit, Lisa suggested that our next meeting might be scheduled at the Fairgrounds during this year's fair.

Jane will develop a Facebook page for our Commission, detailing our programs and projects.

Our next meeting will be Friday, July 19 at 1 p.m. at the Fairgrounds in West Liberty (Heritage Hall).

Motion to adjourn was made by Bill and seconded by Lisa. Meeting adjourned at 12:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Beveridge

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