

Muscatine County Historical Preservation Commission
OFFICIAL MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, June 9, 2021 at noon

Muscatine County Administrative Board Room

Call to Order at 12:03pm

Roll Call and Guests

Commissioners present: Allgood, Beveridge, Collins, Furlong, Koellner, Pruitt

Commissioners absent: Bosten, Daufeldt, Ochiltree (all excused)

Guests: Sherry Seright

Order of Business

- A. Approval of Agenda- Koellner
- B. Approval of Minutes- Pruitt
- C. Approval of Financial Report- Seright/Allgood discussed recent payment of \$14,000 invoice for Country Schools and Churches from Tallgrass prior to finishing final report. Pruitt checked after meeting and determined Tallgrass invoiced us early so we could submit final invoice to SHPO by end of June. Final report will be completed by end of June.

Old Business

D. Historic Jail Museum Preservation and Reuse Funding -Wertzbaugher, Pruitt

- 1. CLG grant Updates
 - 1. Architect firm – Horizon Architects approved by BOS on Monday, May 17. Wertzbaugher finalized subcontract with Paula Mohr and Sherry Seright. Timeline estimate for completion of CLG and report interval to State on schedule. Kickoff meeting with Paula Mohr, Mike Nolan, Lisa Wertzbaugher and Pruitt May 26. Site visit by Mike Nolan and Pruitt June 8. Concept documents due end of June.
- 2. Friends of the Old Jail Update-Beveridge
 - 1. Update on funds raised and plans to raise additional funds -- Beveridge asked for an official letter to support the fundraising effort. Pruitt provided one Lisa Wertzbaugher created in 2019. He also provided the files for the original Historic Jail brochure so the Friends Group could modify and update it.
- 3. Other Action items
 - 1. Marketing promotion by Musser Library – reference video to commissioners by Collins – Collins stated that Chad Yocum from the Library had prepared a promotional video featuring four historic homes for the Muscatine City HP Commission. He may be available to do something similar for the Historic Jail and other County HP projects as part of his library work. Beveridge will try to arrange a video interview with Mary Zoller who lived in the jail with her family when she was young. Beveridge has interior photos of the jail.

2. All information – photos, documents, and history plus plans to preserve provided to Collins. Costs to develop video and budget will be determined..

E. Rural Schools and Churches CLG grant-Daufeldt/Pruitt

1. Contractor update
 1. Draft 1 submitted for Commissioner’s review on April 26 - all commissioners were to provide status of review – timeline June 1. No commissioners indicated that they still had comments and additional photographs to submit to Leah Rogers. Final report to be completed by end of June. Number of copies of written report to be provided to County per contract.
2. Marketing and signage of Historic schools and churches – – Furlong, Pruitt, and Allgood
 1. Signage update - permission from landowner if in front of home. Recommend U-shaped steel post and signs similar to Conservation Board. Iowa Prison Industries are best source but they are still shut down due to COVID. Furlong with also check with Sign Pro locally.
 1. Furlong will determine number of signs (currently estimated at 150) plus costs for signs and posts. Current information indicate \$58 for 24"x24"; \$87.30 for 24"x36"; and \$91 for 30"x30" signs. Posts and hardware extra.
 2. Plan to put Name, Dates, Website and QR Code on signs. May need to research and budget for development of QR Code and Website to support the history of each school/church, and perhaps to provide a link to the MAGIC historic page..
 3. Appropriate colors are brown for recreation/cultural signs and blue for tourism signs.
 4. Volunteers may be able to install the signs. County Engineer Keith White suggests placing in or near fence line for county roads.
 2. Historic bridges removal and funds available for signage update – Pruitt stated a memorandum of understanding is being formalized by federal, state and county officials for the replacement of three bridges, eligible for listing on the NRHP. Current plans are for the county to allocate \$4,250 each of a total of \$12,750 for our use on the Country Schools and Churches signage project. Signage project must be completed in 3 years.
 3. Seright indicated that our Commissions funds may be used to fund the balance of the signage cost if it does not exceed funds available.

F. Nichols Area Historic Grants Updates- Pruitt – possible action items

1. Historic Commercial District, Ijem Ave Plans for marker – City agrees to a historic bronze plaque. Pruitt to contact Iowa Memorial Granite Co regarding potential plaque.
 - 2 (Costs, vendor to provide final plaque – Proposed timeline to complete - to be researched by Pruitt

- 3 Press release and photos pending.
2. St. Mary's Church (Agreement signed between the Church and Jennifer Price, nomination documents proceeding)- MCHPC liaison Pruitt; site visit June 10
3. Christian Church – Determined not to be eligible for listing on NRHP
4. Ben Nichols Home – CLG Grant potential/matching funds – next round of CLG applications for NRHP listing – Fall 2021 - Pruitt
5. Friends of Nichols Group for funding matches (use of funds for NHR signage)

G. MCHPC Meeting with West Liberty Heritage Foundation Trustees - Koellner

1. Tallgrass has a proposal to WLHF for nomination of Heritage Park/Depot to NHR. Not completed as of June 1.
2. WLHF is working with City Administration in cooperative effort with city of West Liberty to establish CLG status. WLHF awaiting selection of new city manager.

H. Wilton Historic Neighborhoods – Allgood/ Ochiltree – possible action items

1. WHC plans to approach Leah Rogers regarding potential listing of historic churches, Star Drug, Masonic Temple, and German College. They will also get her suggestion on proceeding later with the historic neighborhoods. – update on three buildings and historic neighborhoods. Looking for a potential grant.
2. Ochiltree has over 100,000 historic artifacts for which he needs archives and possible museum presentation. Collins said we may be able to get a state grant to digitize some of the written history. Ochiltree may build a pole building to store and possibly display his artifacts.

I. Durant Historic Commission - Allgood/ Ochiltree - possible action items

1. Meeting with Tri-County Historic Commission to discuss common areas of historic preservation – June 30, 6:30pm – in person at museum.

J. Historic Fairport Fish Hatchery Master Plan -Stevens, Pruitt, and Bosten - possible action items

1. Iowa DNR Updates. IDNR has approved the nomination for designation on the Historic Register, but without any funding. – HRDP grant potential
2. Demolition dates/ contractors and Documentation of Pump House- Contractor to begin demolishment in June – salvage of some stones agreed on.
3. Final design MCHPC/DNR of kiosk/pavilion- Friends Group did not receive Carver Foundation grant so other funding required before IDNR finalizes design. Some \$8,000 has been collected by fund raising effort to date. Plans for fundraising are being formulated.
4. Funding for Kiosk, trails, signage – An application for a DNR/Education Grant has been submitted to cover signage. QR Codes will be used on signage to provide more detailed information. Grant is for \$47,000 with matching in-kind contributions totaling \$39,500. Interview scheduled for June 14.

5. Volunteers from the Commission are needed to help with specific items on the Fish Hatchery. Stevens will send a list of items to Koellner who will in turn send to commissioners and others.
6. A contract between the Friends Group and the Art Center had been finalized to do a mural on one of the Houser Street retaining walls depicting the history of the button industry. Design is due mid-June and painting by October 1. Janet Hoopes is doing the creation. Volunteers needed to paint primer and seal coat. Furlong and Pruitt volunteered.
7. Marketing Media (brochure development and media releases) There is a brochure for the Hatchery. Friends Group are anxious to work with Library and/or MCC to get a video prepared.
8. Community Foundation of Greater Muscatine grant application being prepared by Friends Group to fund the Mural and posts for the educational signage at the Hatchery.

K. Create National Historic Register Inventory for Muscatine County – Collins - possible action items

1. Plans for development of Inventory

1. Collect existing marketing information from multiple sources
2. Prepare documents for each site – digital with potential paper
3. Update MAGIC with locations of historic places (cemeteries (GenWeb), facilities, districts, transportation, other historic buildings present in the county) – possible use of summer student

J. Muscatine County Historic Cemeteries – Furlong - possible discussion with cemetery trustees regarding details on cemetery – history – date founded– who is buried - possible action items

1. IA GEN Web has documented cemeteries in Muscatine County. We need to check the comprehensiveness of this and also consider showing cemetery sites on our MAGIC page.

K. Plans for 2021 - possible action items

1. Collaborate with Muscatine City Historic Preservation Commission for potential zoom meeting to share common preservation
2. West Liberty Fair Grounds amphitheater - Koellner
3. Location of Grange Halls in Muscatine County – Commissioners who surveyed townships gather historic facts on Halls
4. Transportation in Muscatine County - Stagecoach routes, railroads, depots, ferry crossings, early highways (Highway 6 and travel cabins), interurban from Davenport to Muscatine, old rail depots and supporting buildings and businesses. old bridges – later in 2021-22

**L. Upcoming Meeting – July 14 at County Administration Building
(County Fair July 21-25)**