

Muscatine County Historic Preservation Commission  
Minutes of Meeting on Tuesday, October 28, 2014

The Muscatine County Historic Preservation Commission (MCHPC) met on October 28, 2014 at the Wertzbaugher Building, 104 West Third St, West Liberty, with commissioners David Nowling, Helen Thompson, Lisa Wertzbaugher, Jim Nepple, Tom Furlong and Mary Beveridge present. Lynn Pruitt was excused.

David Nowling called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m. Commissioners welcomed Tom Furlong as a new member of the commission.

The minutes of the September 16 meeting were approved.

OLD BUSINESS

Stage Coach Inn - Dave reported that Paula Mohr had heard from Marlin Engels that the state has approved the project proposal but wants some changes. Then the state will submit the report to the National Registry. It was the commissioners' feeling that we should contact Paula Mohr and ask her how to proceed.

West Liberty Fairgrounds Project – Lisa Wertzbaugher reported the West Liberty Historic Preservation District is in the process of getting the project listed with the National Registry. At the October 13 meeting at the fairgrounds, Rebecca McCarley said she would be writing the proposal and submitting it to the National Registry for listing.

Lisa reported that any information on fairground structures or events before 1965 would still be welcome. The collection of historical data and fundraising is progressing. Lisa said that corporate visits have started with 50-60 targets. The Community Foundation is the agent and all money collected will be run through them. She also mentioned the \$360 000 donation from Kent Corporation. Total goal is \$1 million. Among other things needed is a long-term funded maintenance plan and endowment fund. Once approved by the National Registry, additional grant proposals can be written for to help fund restoration. The Swine Building is the first on the needs list. Lisa reported that an architect/engineer has been hired: Todd Birkel of Hooting Coyote. Doug Steinmetz is also consulting on the project. Doug sits on the state committee that approves tax credits for historic restoration projects. Among those involved is Hank Mann, a volunteer, who will be liaison for the MCHPC on the project. Hank Mann is an accomplished engineer retired from Stanley Consultants. He will observe the project when necessary and provide feedback and advice to the commission.

Wilton Activity – Lisa Wertzbaugher will follow up with Becky to see if commissioners' help is needed.

NEW BUSINESS

West Liberty Depot – Lisa will keep us posted.

Jim Nepple reported on the South End project. He said that grants are available for minority and low-income residential owners anywhere in the community. Judy Holdorf, executive director of the Community Foundation, has been in contact with Jim and Lisa. Our projects, particularly the Fairgrounds Project, have drawn considerable publicity, as evidenced by a number of candidates and inquiries. The Fairgrounds Project is a massive project, but Lisa would like to wrap up the nomination of the project before January.

#### DISCUSSION

Commissioners noted that roundtable discussions in each community are generating more local involvement, as are more open meetings.

Dave suggested we might want to consider fewer formal meetings or meetings once every 2 months, as we are all connected by the Internet.

Tom Furlong shared his Internet address: [tbfurlong@gmail.com](mailto:tbfurlong@gmail.com) and Jim Nepple read a quote on "A Preservationist's Dream."

Our next meeting will be on November 18, 2014 at 7 p.m. at the County Administration Building in Muscatine.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Mary Beveridge

Muscatine County Historic Preservation Commission