

## Muscatine County Historic Preservation Commission Minutes of Meeting on Tuesday, January 20, 2015

The Muscatine County Historic Preservation Commission (MCHPC) met on Tuesday, January 20, 2015 at the County Administration building with commissioners Lynn Pruitt, David Nowling, Jim Nepple, Helen Thompson, Rebeckah Allgood and Mary Beveridge present. Tom Furlong and Lisa Wertzbaugher were excused.

Lynn Pruitt called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m. Lynn welcomed new member Becky Allgood. He ascertained that all were receiving meeting minutes and emails. The minutes of the January 6 meeting were approved.

### OLD BUSINESS

Lynn reported that the West Liberty Fairgrounds Project is now in the bidding process.

### NEW BUSINESS

Dave reminded members that the Annual Report is required to keep our CLG status. He distributed copies of the initial draft and reviewed a few items on the report.

It was suggested that there be a summary presentation of the Preserve Iowa Summit that was held in Cedar Rapids in the fall. The presentation will perhaps be in May, with Mary Beveridge taking the lead and Jim Nepple and Lynn Pruitt providing support.

Dave Nowling and Jim Nepple reported on the status of the CLG Preservation Planning Grant. Jim suggested getting the grant request for proposal (RFP) in early, in order to get consultants we want who are nearby, thereby saving on their travel expenses. Once the grant RFP is submitted and names of consultants submitted, we would then await their bids. Jim also suggested sending page 13 of the proposal to Paula Mohr and said the forms should come back to a County person and not to a Commission member. Jim said there should be more County support in this matter, and Dave said he would contact Paula and ask her whether Sherry Seright or her secretary Sarah Downey would be able to provide the county support. Jim also mentioned the grant would provide us with plenty of training.

Dave reported on the status of the Fairgrounds Historic District. He said he believed Lisa had received all research folders. He also said that some members of the Fair Board had wanted to build a new Swine Building, but they decided to proceed with the restoration. Three of the five proposed contractors have responded and will be making bids based on information they must provide. The bidding should be completed by May so work can be started and completed by July. Hank Mann has turned in some suggestions and if West Liberty provides the necessary approval and inspection work, Hank will provide oversight to construction procedures.

Becky Allgood reported on the status of the Wilton Downtown Historic District project. She has been working with Jan Olive Full, historic architect. Star Drugstore could be included both as an historic building in itself as well as part of the district, as are the Wilton Candy Kitchen and the Wilton Railroad Station. The paperwork for the district has been completed and in April they will be submitting a grant proposal for \$10 000 to get the listing. The grant will include \$3 000 for an historian, for whom inventory and pictures have been completed. Wilton has hired MSA Engineering of Dubuque to draw up a plan for getting a Downtown Revitalization grant for the facades of the downtown buildings. She reported there is a great deal of "slum and blight," as there are many apartments on lower levels.

Dave reported there is no change to date on the Stagecoach Inn. He will proceed with the project with help from Paula Mohr after completion of the Annual Report.

Lynn called Paula Mohr and will proceed with getting a grant for more document gathering and archiving. Paula will help us get professional help in archiving and grant writing.

Lynn said grants ranging from \$5 000 to \$10 000 might be available for professional help in archiving, which would include gathering, advertising and scanning.

Mary Beveridge reported on possible repositories for historic documents. She contacted Jill Seaholm of the Swenson Center for Swedish Research at Augustana College, who was able to direct her to possible places: the state historical societies in Des Moines and Iowa City. Mary spoke with Mary Bennett (319-335-3916), director of Special Collections at the State Historical Society in Iowa City, who suggested we collect and inventory the items, including a description of documents and dates, and let her know the approximate volume of material. She is very much interested in our pursuing this further.

Our next meeting will be February 17, 2015 at 7 p.m. at the County Administration Building in Muscatine.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted  
Mary Beveridge

Muscatine County Historic Preservation Commission