

## Muscatine County Historic Preservation Commission Minutes of Meeting on Tuesday, February 17, 2015

The Muscatine County Historic Preservation Commission (MCHPC) met on Tuesday, February 17, 2015 at the County Administration building. Present were Lynn Pruitt, David Nowling, Jim Nepple, Helen Thompson, Rebeckah Allgood, Tom Furlong, Lisa Wertzbaugher and Mary Beveridge.

Lynn Pruitt called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Lynn welcomed Sherry Seright from the County Board of Supervisors.

Two corrections were made to the minutes of the last meeting on January 20: Working on the Wilton Downtown Historic District is Jan Olive Full, who is not an architect but an historian, and the Wilton Railroad Station should be the Wilton Depot. The minutes of the January 20 meeting were approved as corrected.

Dave Nowling reported on the Annual Report, which has already been emailed to members of the Commission and has been received by Paula Mohr.

Dave also reported that Paula Mohr has received our CLG Preservation Planning Grant application and the next step will be to secure bids for consultants. There was some discussion as to the dollar amount that the state would pay for the consultant and the dollar amount breakout for materials and consultant travel costs, and whether we can take money out of our \$2 000 balance.

Jim Nepple proposed that the Commission approve sending out applications to at least 3 and no more than 10 potential consultants. This was voted on and approved.

Lisa Wertzbaugher reported on the status of the Muscatine County Fairgrounds Historic District project and said that the research reports will be completed and turned in to the State Historical Office by April 1. It is reviewed and, if approved, will be sent to the National Park Service in October. If approved by the National Park Service, it will be listed as a National Historic site in January 2016. Lisa has already heard favorable comments from Paula Mohr and said that in addition to the nomination process, we are "on track" with the Swine Pavilion restoration fundraising and are approaching the \$100 000 mark. With donations from Kent Corporation and as we get closer to the summer months, she expects the project will be closer to \$450 000. Lisa will send us a 1-page detailed account of the fundraising. The most recent gift is from the Board of Supervisors, which is pledging \$5 000 for each of the next 4 years.

Lisa praised Sherry Seright for her help with publicity for the project. If the prospective bids are received and a consultant chosen, work can begin on the Swine building and hopefully completed in time for the Fair. Lisa felt that seeing the building progress will help with the fundraising.

Becky Allgood reported on the status of the Wilton Downtown Historic District. She will seek an HRDP grant in April and hopes for a grant of \$10 000. Lisa will give Becky a copy of an HRDP grant application she has written. Lisa reminded her that the policy is that we can apply for HRDP grants in 2 consecutive years but suggested that the town of Wilton or its 501 (c) (3) tax-exempt entity apply.

Dave said the Stagecoach Inn project is "on hold." According to Scott Brooke, the owners are in favor of our project, but Dave would like to secure verbal assurances from the owners. He will work on this after the Planning Grant proposal is approved.

Lynn reminded members of the status of the Technical Advisory Network (TAN) grant, which will involve a consultancy visit by Timothy Walch from the State Historical Society in Iowa City to discuss a plan for the preservation of historical records and documents about Muscatine County. The visit will take place at the West Liberty Depot on Tuesday, March 9 between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. Members of the Commission and members of the West Liberty Heritage Foundation are invited. Lynn said that Pam Schnittjer has prepared an inventory of the documents and photos that have been collected from the West Liberty area. Among the documents are plat maps and documents concerning the depot preservation. If Tim Walch approves, we may be able to take any planning to other areas of the county.

Mary Beveridge reported she had talked with Mary Erickson, board member of the Tri-County Heritage and Genealogy Museum in Durant. Mary Erickson would be interested in the volume of materials we have gathered and would be interested in helping us. Sherry Seright has suggested the Old Jail Building in Muscatine has storage and could be able to offer more storage, if needed. Mary will pursue other venues as a repository: Musser Public Library and the Muscatine Museum of History and Industry. We are in the beginning phase of document gathering and preservation and will know more following our session with Tim Walch on March 9.

At the May meeting Mary, Lynn and Jim will report on the Preserve Iowa Summit held in August of last year.

Lynn spoke of a potential new member of the Commission and suggested it might be advisable to have someone from the West Liberty Heritage Foundation join the group. He will explore the matter and make applications available to those who have expressed interest.

Lynn mentioned a citywide meeting of various preservation groups, a meeting scheduled to take place at the West Liberty Fairgrounds on March 26. More than 21 different groups were identified in the announcement, but he was unclear as to the purpose of the meeting or what role the Commission would play. Lynn will look into the matter and report to members via email.

Our next meeting will be March 24, 2015 at 7 p.m. at the Wertzbaugher Building, 104 West 3<sup>rd</sup> Street in West Liberty.

Respectfully submitted  
Mary Beveridge

Muscatine County Historic Preservation Commission