

Muscatine County Historic Preservation Commission Minutes of Meeting on Tuesday, April 28, 2015

The Muscatine County Historic Preservation Commission (MCHPC) met on Tuesday April 28, 2015 at the County Administration building. Present were Lynn Pruitt, David Nowling, Jim Nepple, Rebeckah Allgood, Tom Furlong, Bill Koellner and Mary Beveridge. Lisa Wertzbaugher and Helen Thompson were excused.

Lynn Pruitt called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The minutes of the March 24 meeting in West Liberty were approved as mailed. Tom Furlong reported that the Treasurer's Report would be emailed to commissioners.

A. Dave reported the By Laws would be updated to reflect the addition of the office of treasurer. Dave will make the changes and will fax the updated By Laws to Jim, who will forward them to us. Also noted in the By Laws will be a notation of the regular monthly meeting of the MCHPC on the fourth Tuesday evening at 7:00 p.m. at the County Administration building unless changed. Commissioners voted to approve the new meeting time and place.

B. Dave suggested we bow out of the CLG Planning for Preservation grant as projected for April due to a lack of responses to our Solicitation for Consultants and resubmit the grant request, requesting perhaps \$6 000 instead of \$3 000 for a September review. It was voted to cancel the CLG Planning grant for the time being and then to resubmit it for a September consideration. Jim suggested we might contact Mike Maharry of Muscatine Friends of Historic Preservation to see if they would have funds available for a planning grant.

C. Bill has contacted Sherry Seright regarding the availability of County GIS map overlays for historic preservation information. He will also contact Mark Warren of Muscatine P&W who maintains the Magic GIS system for a potential overlay showing historic sites.

D. Lynn reported for Lisa that the Fair Grounds Historic District research had been completed and the draft application for its National Registry listing was submitted by April 1 to the state.

E. Lynn reported for Lisa that the Fair Grounds Swine Building restoration is progressing. Groundbreaking was on March 27 and construction of the green metal roof is nearly completed. Money has been allocated for concrete and further work, as well as pens. Projected completion date is mid May.

F. Becky reported on the Wilton Downtown Historic District grant. She said they are working on the Façade program as it goes along with the Preservation project. The listing grant is funded for \$13 000 and the total cost will be about \$40 000.

G. Tom reported on the Stage Coach Inn. Scott Brooke has contacted the owners and will be personally contacting Marlin Ingalls in Iowa City. Bill will also talk with Tim Putney, WLSB president, about procuring the Ingalls contract.

H. Because the Old Jail tour did not materialize today due to construction work, Lynn will talk with Sherry Seright to reschedule our visit. The tour might help us determine the Old Jail's suitability as a repository for historical archives.

I. At the May meeting, Mary will report on last year's Preserve Iowa Summit held in Cedar Rapids. Jim and Lynn will also speak. Mary will also report on a presentation by Rebecka McCarley at the 2013 Summit in Burlington.

J. A potential meeting with West Liberty Historic District property owners will be considered at the next meeting.

K. Lynn reported on the March 26 countywide historic preservation planning meeting that Paul Carroll had organized at the Muscatine County Fairgrounds. Those attending, besides Tom Furlong and Bill Koellner and Lynn from MCHPC, included: Judi Holdorf of Community Foundation of Greater Muscatine, John Scott of Muscatine Area Heritage Association, John Haskins of Friends of the Old Barn, Mike Maharry of Muscatine Friends of Historic Preservation, Melanie Alexander of Muscatine Art Center, Pam Schnittjer of West Liberty Heritage Foundation and Nick Cusick of Muscatine Convention and Visitors Bureau. Those attending highlighted their organization's activities and services. The Muscatine Area Heritage Association has several member organizations, including Friends of Pine Creek Gristmill and log cabin, Friends of Old Stone Church, Friends of Melpine School, Friends of Old Barn, Muscatine County Genealogical Society and Friends of Greenwood Cemetery. In addition to maintaining a website, the Convention and Visitors Bureau will be preparing a comprehensive tourism brochure.

L. Lynn will check with the Muscatine Art Center as a meeting place for our May meeting, as we could perhaps arrange for a tour of their historic document collection. The Art Center does remain open on Thursday evenings.

M. Lynn reminded commissioners that the 2015 Preserve Iowa Summit: "The Power of Preservation," will be held in Winterset June 25-27.

Jim suggested distributing leaflets about Muscatine County preservation sites during RAGBRAI, which traverses West Liberty, Atalissa, Moscow and Wilton this year. Lynn will explore the possibility of printing leaflets describing Muscatine County historic sites.

Our next meeting will be May 28, 2015 at 6 p.m. at the Muscatine Art Center, pending date and time approval.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Beveridge

Muscatine County Historic Preservation Commission