

## **Muscatine County Historical Preservation Commission**

Thursday May 28, 2015

The Muscatine County Historical Preservation Commission met on May 28, 2015 at the Laura Musser Art Center at 6:00 pm for a tour. At 7:00 pm the commission met at Mary Beverage's home for the May meeting. Attending were Lisa Wertzbauger, Tom Furlong, Rebeckah Allgood, Jim Nepple, Dave Nowling, Mary Beverage, Helen Thompson, Lynn Pruitt, Bill Koellner and guest Jan Koellner.

The Commissioners toured at the Art Center from 6:00 pm until 7:00 pm. We were shown how items were stored with climate control being an important factor. Many thanks to Virginia Cooper for the tour. Ms Cooper mentioned that the Art Center is essentially full to capacity but she would be willing to advise MCHPC members on archiving procedures once we find a place suitable for storage.

Lynn Pruitt called the MCHPC meeting to order at 7:18 pm. The minutes for April 28 were approved. The Treasurer's report submitted by Tom at the end of April via email was approved.

### **Old Business**

#### By-Laws update

The addition of treasurer position was added to the by-laws. The meetings were changed to the 4th Tuesday of the month instead of the 3rd Tuesday.

#### Treasurer's Report

No changes beyond the April 30, 2015 report submitted last month.

#### GIS update

Muscatine Power and Water GIS Beacon system will consider adding Historical places to the maps overlays. A commissioner is requested to go to MPW and present the information for consideration.

#### Status of West Liberty fair grounds project

Lisa states that the Swine Building has been completed. \$210,000 has been raised toward matching the goal of \$360,000 gift from The Kent corporation. \$50,000 out of the \$210,000 has been specified for the Arts Center at the fairgrounds. A town meeting and fund raising will be kicked off in the fall. There will be a booth at the fair again this year with more info coming in June ref. this project. West Liberty downtown is gathering information for writing facade restoration grants. At the next meeting on June 23rd in West Liberty we will discuss tax credits for West Liberty facade restoration. Lisa will make a presentation in that regard.

#### Status of downtown Wilton

Rebeckah says that the application for the facade restoration grants for downtown Wilton is doing well.

### Status of The Stage Coach Inn project

Tom talked to Scott Brooke ref. Marlan Engels finishing the Historic Register application on the Stage Coach Inn. Bill talked to Tim Putney ref. this project also. Dave, Tom and Bill will attempt to talk to the Ryan Trust people (Priscilla Heassig, Bob Cline & Tim Putney) ref. the original contracts with Engels. Dave needs this paperwork to move on with the application paperwork. Tom and Bill are going to continue to work on this project.

### Old Jail Potential

Adapting the current basement heating and cooling heat pump system to serve the front part of the jail is being studied, wiring has to be updated by a qualified electrician and handicapped entry to the building has to be looked at. We need to check on cost to restore the building and how to fund this restoration. We have to devise a plan to take to the board and present it. Dave & Helen-work on 3 stages of potential facility use, Bill & Tom -work on extent and cost of restorations, and Lisa & Rebeckah work on funding for project.

### Promotional Flyer

Tabled for now.

### Iowa preservation summit @ Cedar Rapids

Mary handed out report to Commissioners.

### 2015 Preservation Summit @ Winterset

June 25-27-Lynn will be attending.

### Rebecca McCarley Seminar on Tax Credits

June 3rd -Jim, Helen and Dave will be attending.

### **New Business**

The next meeting will be on June 23 @ 6:30pm at the Floral Building at the West Liberty Fairgrounds; then will tour the Swine Pavilion.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10pm.

Thanks to Mary Beverage for the tea and cake and hospitality at her home.

Submitted by  
Helen Thompson