

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

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

Lynn Pruitt called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m. Minutes of the June 23 meeting were approved.

Bill Koellner reported on the possibility of obtaining GIS map overlays containing historic site information. They are available from the County Administration Office. Lynn suggested using the county website and researching the maps and copying costs. Bill will check with Sherry Seright and report at the next meeting. Lynn suggested and all agreed to keep any posting of County historical information on the County website until further notice.

David Nowling reported on the re-submittal of a Planning for Preservation Grant. He has talked with Rebecca McCarley, Jan Full in Iowa City and Paula Mohr about the project, which will be a project extending into 2016. Funding will involve consultation fees for 120 hours at \$65 per hour, and he figures there will be a minimum of 30 volunteer hours for the project. In discussion of his proposed budget, it was agreed to raise the film and processing budget item from \$10 to \$200. David announced he will be resigning from the Commission, but will remain as adviser and will see the PRG project through to completion as well as the Old Jail archives project. David said the project director's manual is very detailed and most of the work involves obtaining approval, finalizing bids and reporting to the state. Becky Allgood agreed to be the project manager and Lynn Pruitt will be project director. Jim Nepple said we must identify the aspects for the entire county and after David finalizes the budget, Jim will send it out to members and then to Sherry for the County Board of Supervisors' approval and then to Paula Mohr for final approval.

Lynn reported that the state has the Fair Grounds Historic District application and, when approved, it will go to the NRO (National Register Office).

Bill reported on the status of the Fair Grounds Restoration and Fund Raising. Discussion of monetary requirements for naming a building is in progress and one family has donated at least 35 000 thus far. Bill will work with Lisa Wertzbaugher on this project.

Becky reported on the status of the Wilton Downtown Historic District. The HRDP grant has been received and downtown revitalization will continue as more store owners sign on and obtain Community Block Grants (CBG) for building facades. Becky is hopeful that the revitalization and block grants will involve not just the

facades but also the entire buildings. Right now there are 15-18 buildings that are involved and 15 buildings is the minimum number for a district.

Bill reported on the status of the Stage Coach Inn nomination. He has met with 3 members of the Ryan Trust, two of whom are very supportive and agreeable to moving forward with the nomination process. Upon their approval, Marlin Engels from the state will be contacted. Working on this project with Bill will be Tom Furlong and David Nowling.

Lynn provided commissioners with a final draft of the Proposal for the Old Jail Restoration and reminded them it was a staged approach. Jim suggested submitting the proposal first to Sherry Seright at the County Board of Supervisors and then presenting the proposal at the next meeting of the Board on August 3 at 9 a.m. Lynn will call the Board and ask to be included on the meeting agenda and asked for volunteers from the Commission to attend. Mary, Helen and Becky will try to be at the meeting to support Lynn.

Lynn distributed copies of the promotional flyers highlighting County Historic Preservation projects, flyers that had been distributed at the County Fair and at RAGBRAI in West Liberty and Wilton.

Lynn reported on the Preserve Iowa Summit, which he attended in Winterset. He mentioned that all meetings and subcommittee meetings must follow prescribed open meeting procedure when decisions are made. Lynn will be including more information he learned at the Preserve Iowa Summit at future meetings.

Becky will be attending the Downtown Summit in West Des Moines August 27-28. Mary reported on her participation in the webinar on Historic Tax Credits 101 on July 23. Jim reminded commissioners to keep track of any training, as annual training is required of all commissioners.

In further discussion David reported he has submitted the Federal Survey, and Lynn suggested and all agreed to keep any posting of County historical information on the County website until further notice.

Becky announced a celebration of 100 years of Electrification in West Liberty at the West Liberty Depot on Saturday, August 8 from 1 to 4 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Our next meeting will be August 18, 2015 at 6:30 p.m. at the Muscatine County Administration building.

Respectfully submitted
Mary Beveridge
Muscatine County Historic Preservation Commission