

## Muscatine County Historic Preservation Commission Minutes of Meeting on Tuesday, January 26, 2016

The Muscatine County Historic Preservation Commission (MCHPC) met on Tuesday, January 26, 2016 at the Liberty Social Club in West Liberty. Present were Lynn Pruitt, Jim Nepple, Lisa Wertzbaugher, Helen Thompson, Mary Beveridge, Tom Furlong, Rebeckah Allgood and Wayne Corriell. Bill Koellner was absent.

Lisa Wertzbaugher called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and welcomed the new officers: Lynn Pruitt as ex-officio chair, Tom Furlong as treasurer and Mary Beveridge as secretary. Minutes of the November meeting were approved as mailed. Treasurer Tom Furlong reported a balance of \$10,979.84. He said we have not yet heard if our budget request for 2016 has been approved.

Rebeckah Allgood reported on the Wilton Downtown Historic District and Building Façade Restoration. She said they are trying to get more local support for the project and distributed a map of the proposed CDBG Downtown Revitalization project. The Art Department at the University of Iowa is providing the work and guidance. Lisa told Rebeckah to let her know if we can help with any local events and disseminating information.

Helen Thompson reported on the Commission's request to upload conference materials on the webpage. Sherry Seright told her that conference materials and large files cannot be uploaded, but smaller files are fine.

Lisa reported on the status of the Fairgrounds Historic District. Lisa, Bill and Tom are on the Fairgrounds Restoration Committee, which is moving forward. The next project will likely be the restoration of the historic Exposition Hall and the updating of the Arts and Crafts Building. Todd Birkel, who had directed the work on the Swine Pavilion, will be hired as consultant for further restoration work. Todd has recommended that Doug Steinmetz from the State Historical Society be responsible for the architectural work and Todd will be responsible for the engineering work. Lisa said it is an advantage that the project has been named an historical district, that fundraising has been progressing so well and that several Fairground projects are in the works. Jim Nepple suggested that a long-term plan for the Fairgrounds should make it easier to raise capital. Lisa added that the Grandstand or Amphitheatre might be completed in 2017.

Lynn Pruitt announced that we have approval for the Preservation Planning and the Museum/Archive Project Development Study grants and will now proceed to get the consultants. The Project Director would be working with the consultants. Doug Steinmetz will be one of the 4 consultants to bid on restoration and archival work.

Lynn suggested that our preservation projects be divided up among Commissioners. Jim Nepple will take the lead on countywide planning for preservation work and the Stagecoach Inn project. Helen Thompson and Mary Beveridge will take the lead on the Jail/Museum archives.

Lisa will present the Annual Report to the County Supervisors by the end of February.

Lisa will be nominating Rebeckah Allgood for a State Historical Society Preservation Award, based on her work in directing the restoration and preservation work in Wilton.

There was some discussion of meeting times and locations and it was decided to try changing our meeting times to daytime meetings. Commissioners agreed to schedule monthly meetings at 12:30 p.m.

The next meeting will be held on **Monday**, February 22, 2016 at **12:30 p.m.** at the County Administration Building. The change to Monday is only for February. Normal monthly meeting days are fourth Tuesdays.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted  
Mary Beveridge

Muscatine County Historic Preservation Commission