

Muscatine County Historic Preservation Commission Minutes of Meeting on Monday, February 22, 2016

The Muscatine County Historic Preservation Commission (MCHPC) met on Monday, February 22, 2016 at the Muscatine County Administration Building. Present were Lynn Pruitt, Jim Nepple, Lisa Wertzbaugher, Helen Thompson, Mary Beveridge, Rebeckah Allgood and Wayne Corriell. Tom Furlong and Bill Koellner were excused. Also present were Sherry Seright from the County Board of Supervisors and John Haskins from Friends of the Old Barn.

Lisa Wertzbaugher called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m. Minutes of the January meeting were approved as mailed. There was no treasurer's report.

John Haskins spoke about the Friends of the Old Barn Project, which is presently funded by individuals' contributions. John is seeking assistance from Commissioners in applying for grants and tax credits for the barn and an historic cottage on the property. Jim Nepple said that both are already a part of our County Planning Project. Because they already have volunteers and a Board, Lisa said they should apply for a TAN grant and the appointed historian will determine the Barn's eligibility. Once eligibility is determined, then the group should apply for other grants and tax credits and they could apply for an HRDP grant. It was moved and seconded to help write the TAN grant for the Barn and the cottage. Lynn Pruitt will contact Paula Mohr and work with John Haskins.

Lisa reported on the status of the Muscatine County Fairgrounds Historic District. The Fairgrounds Restoration Committee has voted to hire Doug Steinmetz to develop a scope and building project for the Ryan Building (formerly the Exposition Hall).

Rebeckah Allgood reported on the Wilton Downtown Historic District and Building Façade Restoration. She said they are awaiting approval of a CDG grant, but said that even if it is not received in May, they will proceed with the restoration of the building façades. The first draft of the nomination to the National Registry is ready. Wilton has hired Klinger Associates and the key was to get all the property owners "on board" with the restoration.

Lisa said that members of the West Liberty Chamber would like to talk with the Wilton group, and Rebeckah said she would be happy to go to West Liberty and talk with them. Rebeckah also mentioned that an all-school reunion is being planned in Wilton and plans are to publicize the restoration work at the reunion and thereby raise more money.

Jim reported on the status of the Stage Coach Inn. He said that Marlin Engels has completed the application but has not yet submitted it. Bill Koellner, he said, would follow up with Bob Klein.

Jim said we are ready to submit proposals for the CLG grant RFPs for County-Wide Preservation Planning and get the consultant. Applications are due by the end of February. Jim will send a summary report the first week in March.

Helen Thompson reported on the status of the Old Jail Museum/Archive Project. She has contacted Doug Steinmetz, who has already seen the Old Jail. Another applicant, Matt Cohen, wants to look at the building. Helen will email them and the other applicants and tell them the building will be open on February 29. Bids will then be sent to either Jim or Helen. Sherry Seright said that in the future all bids should be sent to the County Board of Supervisors.

Sherry Seright suggested that in the future we may want to allow email submissions to the County Board of Supervisors. Lisa has already submitted the Annual Report by email.

The next meeting will be held on **Tuesday, March 22, 2016 at 12:30 p.m.** at the Community Savings Bank in Wilton.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted
Mary Beveridge

Muscatine County Historic Preservation Commission