

Muscatine County Historic Preservation Commission Minutes of Meeting on Wednesday, 12 October 2016

The Muscatine County Historic Preservation Commission (MCHPC) met on Wednesday, October 12 at 12 noon at the County Administration Building with commissioners Lynn Pruitt, Mary Beveridge, Rebeckah Allgood and Anna Mack present. Jim Nepple, Lisa Wertzbaugher, Bill Koellner and Tom Furlong were excused. Also present were John Haskins, Sherry Seright and Doug Steinmetz.

Doug Steinmetz, architect of the Old Jail/Archives Project, brought us up-to-date on the design development of the Old Jail with plans to initially restore and save the building as an historic house. He suggested 2 scenarios with cost estimates for both. Scenario A would cost \$700 000 - \$730 000 and would include accommodation for the county custodian. Scenario B would cost \$610 000 - \$640 000, assuming that custodial services would be housed at another location.

In both scenarios the second floor would be used as storage space and an entrance ramp would be built along the parking lot or east side of the building and restrooms would be added on the first floor. Fire protection would be at an additional cost of \$45 000 - \$55 000. All costs would include 20% contingency and 10% professional fees.

Scenario A would include additional space/building that would be separate from the public side/historic house. Both scenarios would include landscaping with trees and flower beds. The first phase in the restoration would include stabilizing the building and exterior repairs and the next phase would include developing and restoring the house.

Sherry said the Board has been attempting to reduce the county buildings and requested an expansion of the custodian's space. She suggested adding enough space for the custodian's truck and adding to cost estimates before presenting it to the Board. She suggested space for more vehicles and said there has been some discussion about eliminating the Washington Street space.

There will be 2 entryways or exits from the basement, with the main entry/exit on the eastern side.

Doug said that splitting the project into more phases adds to the cost, so choosing the scenario is important. In any case, he said starting with exterior improvements to the building and funding questions should be considered first.

Sherry suggested the Commission should create a "Friends of the Old Jail" group that would look into funding and donations. She said grants would be matching grants and suggested the Convention and Visitors' Bureau might be relocated in the building. With these plans in place and with options and additional funding, we could present the project to the Board of Supervisors.

Lynn reported on the Planning for Preservation Study and said that Town Hall meetings were progressing as scheduled. Windshield Surveys should be completed for County townships and submitted to Rebecca McCarley.

Meeting minutes from August 29 and September 29 were distributed.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, November 2 at 12:00 noon on the lower level of the Community Services Building (old Post Office) on Iowa Avenue.

Respectfully submitted by Mary Beveridge

Muscatine County Historic Preservation Commission