

**Muscatine County Historic Preservation Commission
Minutes of Meeting on Tuesday, April 18, 2017 at 76 Township Hall**

The Muscatine County Historic Preservation Commission (MCHPC) met on Tuesday, April 18 at 12:15 pm at 76 Township Hall with commissioners Lisa Wertzbaugher, Lynn Pruitt, Jim Nepple, Tom Furlong, Rebeckah Allgood, Bette Schneider and Bill Koellner present. Mary Beveridge and Anna Mack were absent. Mike Furlong was a visitor. Lisa Wertzbaugher presided.

The minutes of the March meeting were reviewed and approved. Treasurer Tom Furlong reported a balance of -\$17,600 (deficit due to pending reimbursement from State for Historic Jail project).

Jim Nepple presented an update on a possible Community Foundation Account which would handle and monitor funds applicable to the following potential non-profit organizations related to Muscatine County Historic Preservation: Historic West Liberty, Historic Wilton, Beers-St. John Stage Coach Inn, Historic Muscatine County Jail, and Old Barn. Jim will file Articles of Organization for each of these non-profit by the end of April.

Lisa Wertzbaugher will review the Old Jail report and prepare a list of potential tasks for us to pursue now that the consultant's work is complete. We will also be able to start fund raising and evaluate potential grant sources. At our next meeting the Commission will review Lisa's list and set forth our schedule. Lisa provided, after the meeting, via email some vendor equipment related to archiving and display.

Jim Nepple stated everything is set for the final presentation by Rebecca McCarley for our Planning for Preservation project on April 20. Her final report will be available in May and this will provide us with a list of potential tasks for the next 5-10 years.

Bill Koellner said he is ready to establish a board of directors (3-7 members) for the Stage Coach Inn project. He is ready to start formal fund raising once the non-profit is in place.

Lisa Wertzbaugher and Tom Furlong discussed the status of the Fair Grounds project. A contractor has been hired for the new restroom facility and this is expected to be completed by fair time. Other projects underway include a new entrance arch, columns and ticket booth. The fair board will be filing for an HRDP grant.

Becky Allgood reported on the Wilton project. Their CLG is nearly approval. They are applying for an HRDP grant for City Hall renovation. They are ready to start renovation of some 15 building in the historic downtown. They are looking for funding to help with handicap access in these buildings.

Lynn Pruitt reported on the Old Barn. The Board of Supervisors has decided to demolish the cottage but to keep the Old Barn. We will support the Friends of the Old Barn with trying to get qualified for the National Historic Register.

Bill Koellner and Lisa Wertzbaugher discussed their involvement with Downtown West Liberty. The mayor has appointed a Historic Task Force with Lisa as co-chair and Bill as a member. There is an attempt to get a CBDG grant. Our continued involvement at this point is uncertain although we will set up a non-profit organization which can be used for fund raising. The West Liberty Heritage group is applying for funds to renovate their rural school building.

Lynn Pruitt suggested that the city of Nichols may be interested in developing a historic district. This will be discussed during our next meeting, which will hopefully have some of Nichols city officials present.

Next meeting is scheduled for 11:30 am at Newt's Café in Nichols on Tuesday, May 16, 2017.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Lynn Pruitt
Muscataine County Historic Preservation Commission