

**Muscatine County Historic Preservation Commission
Minutes of Meeting on Tuesday, 16 May 2017**

The Muscatine County Historic Preservation Commission (MCHPC) met on Tuesday, May 16 at the Nichols City Hall with commissioners Lisa Wertzbaugher (part time), Bill Koellner, Rebeckah Allgood and Lynn Pruitt present. Mary Beveridge, Tom Furlong, Jim Nepple, Anna Mack and Bette Schneider were absent. Visitors were City of Nichols Mayor Cyle Geertz and Councilwoman Cindy Massey.

Lynn Pruitt presided and called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m.

The City of Nichols officials expressed interest in our assistance in exploring a possible Historic District for the city (downtown plus churches and school). Lynn Pruitt will contact Paula Mohr regarding the possibility of a TAN grant utilizing Jennifer Price to determine eligibility.

The West Liberty Downtown project is applying for a CBDG block grant to analyze the various building. They have raised \$5,400 and the City will be selecting a consultant for this work.

Bill Koellner reported that five non-profit Friends groups have been set up by Jim Nepple. Bill had received information from Judy Holdorf that the Community Foundation requires a minimum of \$2,500 plus a setup charge of \$150 to get each account started. We need to confirm how this will work with Jim.

Bill Koellner is setting up a committee for the Stage Coach Inn project.

Lynn Pruitt and Becky Allgood reported on the final presentation of the Planning for Preservation Report by Rebecca McCarley on April 20. We will request some CDs and some hard copies of the final report for our members.

Lisa Wertzbaugher will discuss with Sherry Seright about the next step for the Historic Jail project. The commissioners recommended that Lisa approach the Board of Supervisors requesting funding for phase 1 which is stabilization of the building. The estimated cost is about \$70,000 and we believe that amount has been earmarked in the county budget. While phase 1 is proceeding, we will start fund raising and developing plans for phase 2.

Bill Koellner reported on the Fairgrounds project. The Midwest One building is being re-painted. The new restroom is 60% complete and should be finished in June. The Exhibition Hall is nearly complete. A new entrance is being developed. The Gazebo will be finished by fair time. A dedication is planned for near the beginning of the fair.

Becky Allgood reported on the Wilton Downtown Revitalization project. Their architect is working with the 15 building owners to develop a single bidding document for the work. They have a CBDG block grant for \$500,00; the City is funding \$250,000; and property owners are funding the remaining \$250,000. The City is applying for a \$50,000 HRDP grant to help with the City Hall renovation.

Lynn Pruitt will contact Shelly Maharry to determine the status of the request for listing the Old Barn on the National Historic Register

The next meeting is scheduled tentatively for Tuesday, June 20 at 12 p.m. at the Historic Grist Mill at Wildcat Den State Park. Some adjustment in schedule may be made to allow more commissioners to attend.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Lynn Pruitt
Muscatine County Historic Preservation Commission