

**Muscatine County Historic Preservation Commission  
Minutes of Meeting on Thursday, June 22, 2017**

The Muscatine County Historic Preservation Commission (MCHPC) met on Thursday, June 22 at 12:12 pm at the Grist Mill at Wildcat Den State Park with commissioners Lynn Pruitt, Jim Nepple, Mary Beveridge, Bill Koellner and Bette Schneider present. Lisa Wertzbaugher, Tom Furlong, Rebeckah Allgood and Anna Mack were excused. Lynn Pruitt presided over the meeting.

The minutes of the April and May meetings were reviewed and approved.

The leads for the First Phase of the Historic Jail project, which is the stabilization phase, will be Mary Beveridge, Anna Mack and Bette Schneider. They will be working with Sherry Seright, who will direct that part of the project, costs of which will be paid by the county.

Jim Nepple reported on the various projects, which will be included in an umbrella group with the Community Foundation. The 5 projects will each have its own Friends Group and the umbrella group will include: the Stagecoach Inn, which has a corporate setup, the Historic West Liberty, which has its own funds, the Old Barn, which is part of a Heritage Association, the Downtown Wilton project and the Historic Jail project.

Jim said these groups would open a checking account with the Community Foundation. There was some discussion as to how to set up the umbrella group. Jim said that being an historic property enables eligibility for state and federal grants. The discussion of the umbrella project centered around possible conflicts about insurance expenses and tax ramifications which conflicted with some groups like the Greenwood Cemetery steps, the Friends of the Grist Mill and the Friends of the Old Barn. Discussion evolved around the Community Foundation and the need for an initial \$10,000, nonrefundable and not accessible, thus easier to get with Heritage rather than with the Foundation. Both are 501c3, but Heritage offers group insurance and the Foundation does not. Using your money (1<sup>st</sup> 10,000) is very important to low funded groups.

Jim will continue working on this and keep the commissioners informed.

Bill Koellner said that the Beers-St. John Stage Coach Inn will be starting a Friends Group and that the West Liberty group has been contacting all business owners to raise funds and hire an architect.

Jim will coordinate the various Friends groups. He also recommended that we wait until the Fall to work on the list of sites targeted by the Planning for Preservation project directed by Rebecca McCarley.

Commissioners agreed that pamphlets be prepared for the Muscatine County Fair in July. Bill Koellner is setting up a booth at the Fair, which will hold a ribbon-cutting event for the Entrance and the Exhibition Hall, the latter expecting to be completed by July 8. The Fair will be held from July 19 to July 22. Our booth will try to raise funds and distribute brochures to raise awareness of the Commission's work.

Lynn reported that 2 TAN grants have been approved for Nichols, but the community will first need to vote to proceed with the projects.

Jim Nepple, Lynn Pruitt and Becky Allgood attended the Preserve Iowa Summit recently in Fort Dodge.

The Commission is awaiting reimbursement for the Planning for Preservation grant.

The next meeting is scheduled for the week of the Muscatine County Fair. Exact date and time will be determined.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:45 p.m. and was followed by a tour of the Grist Mill, conducted by Dick Metz.

Respectfully submitted by Mary Beveridge

**Muscatine County Historic Preservation Commission**