

Muscatine County Historic Preservation Commission Minutes of Meeting on Tuesday, October 24, 2017

The Muscatine County Historic Preservation Commission (MCHPC) met on Tuesday, October 24, 2017 at the County Administration building with commissioners Lisa Wertzbaugher, Lynn Pruitt, Jim Nepple, Mary Beveridge, Tom Furlong and Bette Schneider present. Rebeckah Allgood was excused. Bill Koellner and Anna Mack were absent. Sherry Seright, budget coordinator at the Board of Supervisors, was also present.

Lisa Wertzbaugher called the meeting to order at 11:09 a.m. The September minutes were approved as corrected.

Tom Furlong reported a balance of \$10 319.23.

Lynn Pruitt reported on the status of the Historic Jail project and reviewed the project proposal from Michael Nolan, architect with Horizon Architecture in Iowa City, which had been forwarded to commissioners. Lynn summarized the scope of the project, which will include structural repairs and building stabilization, as well as removal of debris and stored items. Also included was a fee proposal and other reimbursable expenses. Commissioners voted to approve the proposal with the stipulation that the old boiler might remain in the building because of its historical significance and the cost of its removal. Michael Nolan will handle the bidding process. He will present the report at the October 30 meeting of the Board of Supervisors. Bette Schneider and Mary Beveridge will present the proposal to the Board at that 9:00 a.m. meeting.

Lisa Wertzbaugher reported on the status of the Stage Coach Inn project. She said the new owners, Nate and Emily Cahill, have not yet responded and that she will keep us informed.

Lisa Wertzbaugher and Tom Furlong reported on the status of the Fair Grounds project. Lisa has stepped off the Fair Board and because of other responsibilities and family matters, she will quit the Fair Grounds Project. She thinks that Bill Koellner and Tom Furlong will continue with the Fair Grounds Project for the time being, working on obtaining bids and contracts. The Heritage Hall, aka the Antiques building, and the Show Ring are the next projects, and the Fair Board will be applying for an HRDP grant in April. Following these projects will be the Grandstand and Activities (4H) building. Laurie of the Fair Board will be contacting Lisa about filing taxes.

Jim Nepple said the filing of taxes is very important, as the Fair Board has lost its tax-exempt status, which might take up to 15-18 months for reinstatement. Scott Sauer of the Board of Supervisors represents the Fair Board and has talked with Lori Gosenberg about the matter.

Lisa said that Becky Allgood reported that Wilton's Downtown project has started the process of getting churches and schools, as well as grange halls and township halls, listed on the National Registry. Both Jim and Lynn said that before such buildings could be listed, there should be a study and identification of a district of higher historic significance. Lisa will speak to Becky and ask for a report on Wilton's goals and plans.

Lynn Pruitt reported on the Old Barn. He has contacted Paul Carroll, who is going to report back to him on the progress of obtaining its National Registry listing. Sherry Seright said the Old Barn property has been turned over to Conservation and there will be action taken by the Board. Sherry feels the project will move forward.

Lynn reported that Nichols is moving ahead with the TAN grant process. He has talked with Jennifer Price, who will be working on the TAN grant for Nichols' historic sites. Lynn also said that the cemetery rehabilitation work might be a future project.

Lisa reported on the status of the Downtown West Liberty project and said that a contract with the mayor's Task Force is moving forward with an application in 2018. She also said that Bill Koellner is very much involved in the project.

Lisa reported that Anna Mack has resigned from the Commission. Commissioners decided to ask Lisa to contact Ann Collier and ask her to become a commissioner.

Jim reported on the status of the Planning for Preservation Study. He will present a plan for prioritization at the next meeting.

In open discussion, Jim said Lisa's presentation at last week's Rotary meeting was excellent. He said Lisa talked about our projects and said we would be happy to partner with Rotary in promoting historic preservation.

Our next meeting will be Tuesday, November 29 at 12:00 p.m. at Newt's Café in Nichols.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted
Mary Beveridge

Muscatine County Historic Preservation Commission