

Muscatine County Historic Preservation Commission
OFFICIAL PUBLIC and MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES
12 Noon, Wednesday, December 13, 2023
At Muscatine County Administration Center, Supervisor's Meeting Room
Muscatine, IA 52761

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Commissioners: Becky Furlong, Becky Allgood, Bill Koellner, John Kiwala, Joe Harper, Ken Snyder, Lynn Pruitt

Others: Kala Naber, Jennifer Price

MONTHLY MEETING AGENDA

- A. **Call to Order the Monthly Meeting of the Muscatine County Historic Preservation-Furlong**
- B. **Approval of Agenda- Furlong** – Two additions: Transportation Survey Quarterly Report due and Bald Eagle Days representation – Approved (Koellner/Harper)
- C. **Approval of Minutes- November- Pruitt** – Approved (Harper/Koellner)
- D. **Receipt of Financial Reports (CFGM Friends and County) – Daufeldt/Naber** – Submitted via email earlier. Approved (Snyder/Harper)

OLD BUSINESS

- A. **Country Schools and Churches Project** – Furlong reported she will check on the four signs in Wilton Twp and one sign in Sweetland Twp which reportedly have been taken down.
- B. **HRDP 2023 Grant Update for Wilton Historic Neighborhoods Survey – Allgood** – Allgood reported the survey is moving ahead with a townhall meeting and other input. Ray Werner of Tallgrass Archeology is leading the survey.
- C. **Fairport Fish Hatchery-National Register of Historic Places-Pruitt** presented report provided by Sandy Stevens including status of display cases and electrical for pavilion; REAP grant adjustments and near completion; educational panels for pavilion; donation requests; and additional planned signage.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. **Transportation Project-Koellner & Jennifer Price**
 - a. **Research & Pictures by all members and selection of 20 extant sites** - Several commissioners provided their recent research to Price. Others have provided their research through the shared drive. Each commissioner briefed the group on their findings. Price will provide a list of up to 40 sites as potential for the 20 Iowa Site Inventory Forms. Commissioners will have the opportunity to “vote” on their preferences. It was stressed that, as much as possible, the 20 sites should be representative across all 14 township and distributed by all modes of transportation. All relevant research will be included in the report.
 - b. **Quarterly Progress Report** – Koellner requested commissioners to provide him with forms showing hours and mileage invested in the project for Oct-Dec 2023. Report is due Jan 3, 2024.

- B. Budget-Naber** – Input was requested for the County’s 2024-25 budget. Commissioners requested \$10,000 for training and project matching funds. Motion approved. The current HPC fund balance is approximately \$7,000 which is anticipated to be used as matching funds for currently planned projects and participation in 2024 Preserve Iowa Summit.
- C. 2024 CLG Status-Pruitt & Kiwala** – The history of the fruit and vegetable industry in the county (primarily Fruitland Twp) is the thrust of the CLG grant application which has been recently submitted. If approved, work could start in March 2024.
- D. 2024 HRDP Grant Application discussion and possible action – All Commissioners** – Commissioners decided to pick a potential project during the January 2024 meeting. Choices put forward include Archeologic Investigations at Fairport Fish Hatchery, Intensive Survey of West Liberty Historic Neighborhoods, and NRHP nomination(s) for extant Country Schools and Churches identified in our recent survey.
- E. 2024 Preserve Iowa Summit – possible presentations – Pruitt** – Pruitt and Price have submitted for our comprehensive work at Nichols, which would potentially be combined with similar project(s) in other Iowa small towns. Pruitt, Rebecca McCarley and Sandy Stevens submitted for a presentation of all work done at Fairport Fish Hatchery.
- F. 2025 Preserve Iowa Summit – possible hosting with City HPC – Pruitt** – The City JPC submitted to host the 2025 Preserve Iowa Summit in Muscatine, as part of their CLG grant application (see below). The County HPC has offered to assist with the hosting but not financially.
- G. Potential support to City HPC on Underground Railroad Intensive Survey – Pruitt** – The City HPC has submitted for a CLG grant for this project. The County HPC has offered to assist with the project, since half of the sites are in the county, but not financially.
- H. Potential booth at Bald Eagle Days – Koellner** – Proposal to have a joint booth with Muscatine County Master Gardeners at Bald Eagle Days on January 20, 2024. Approved (Koellner/Pruitt)

Next Meeting: Noon, January 10 @ Muscatine County Administration Center

2024 Meeting Dates

- January 10**
- February 14**
- March 13**
- April 10**
- May 8**
- June 12**
- July 10**
- August 14**
- September 11**
- October 9**
- November 13**
- December 11**