

**Muscatine County Historic Preservation Commission
OFFICIAL PUBLIC AND MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES**

12 noon, Tuesday, April 16, 2024

**At Muscatine County Administration Center, Supervisors Meeting Rm
Muscatine, IA 52761**

Members in attendance (X-present, E-excused)

Lynn Pruitt	X	John Kiwala	X
Becky Furlong	X	Joe Harper	X
Bill Koellner	X	Rebecca Bovenmyer	E
Mary Beveridge	X		
Becky Allgood	E		
Ken Snyder	E		

Also present were Sandy Stevens and Chris Brase

Meeting called to order at noon by President Furlong.

- A. Approval Agenda and March 2024 Minutes – Approved (Koellner/Harper)
- B. Receipt of Financial Reports – Not available

Old Business:

- A. **Vacancy on MCHPC** -- Application received from Doug Conklin to fill one of the two empty seats of the Commission. Chris Brase received a blank application and is contemplating applying.
- B. **Country Schools & Churches Project** – Furlong is still following up on the 4 missing signs.
- C. **HRDP 2023 Grant Update for Wilton Historic Neighborhoods survey** – Word received from Allgood that a draft report (1000 pages) has been received from Tallgrass Archeology.
- D. **Fairport Fish Hatchery Update** – Stevens reported that there will be a fish fry fund raiser June 14 and an April 22 Earth Day celebration unveiling new educational displays. Thirty school children from Marion County Independent School received training at the Hatchery last Friday. Trail maps and invitations to the Earth Day event were distributed to all present. The REAP grant is nearing successful completion. Construction of the Pavilion is planned for this summer. A pollinator field is being planned. A Great River Road Interpretative Center is contemplated at the hatchery. HRDP grant funding is not available for this year but Stevens may proceed with some archeologic research independently. The Houser Street mural is being expanded to show the Mississippi River in 3 stages of development.

New Business:

- A. **Transportation Project Update** – Consultant Jennifer Price reported through Koellner that she had finished 18 site forms and is working to complete a total of 20. She has requested that our commissioners, and especially the ones nominating, review the completed site forms on the shared drive. She plans to present the draft report at our

May meeting. Koellner reported that the volunteers had exceeded the required in-kind services. Hours and mileage provided before the end of March should be submitted to Koellner by the end of this week.

- B. 2024 CLG Grant Status** – Pruitt reported that we had won the CLG grant for survey of the fruit and vegetable industry development in the county. The contract is expected within a week. Kiwala has researched substantial information already. After the contract is in place we will select a consultant to lead the survey
- C. 2024 CLG Grant for the City of Muscatine Commission** – Pruitt reported the City had won a CLG grant for surveying the Underground Railroad with help from the County for sites outside of Muscatine. Also awarded to the City will be hosting of the 2025 Preserve Iowa Summit. Pruitt distributed a list of tasks and assignments for the County Commissioners to consider volunteering for as this will be a joint undertaking.
- D. 2024 HRDP Grant application** – According to Stevens, the Iowa Legislator did not fund the 2024 HRDP Grants so we will have to consider other options for our planned projects.
- E. Iowa Preservation Summit June 6-8, 2024**–Members were encouraged to attend the State’s Preservation Iowa Summit in Mt. Pleasant. This is a crucial learning experience since we will be doing similar tasks next year. Funds are available to support attendance by our Commissioners.
- F. National Register of Historic Places Plaques** – Pruitt reported that he will be assisting representatives from the Nichols St. Mary’s Catholic Church, the Nichols Historic Home, and the Old County Barn with selection of plaques and/or signs at no cost to the County.
- G. Next Meeting Date: Tuesday, May 21, 2024 @ noon at Muscatine County Administration Center**

Meeting adjourned at 1:05 pm.

Minutes submitted by:

Lynn Pruitt, Vice Chair

Minutes Approved Date: ____/____/____ by: _____