

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

**12 noon, Tuesday, December 17 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	E	Doug Conklin	X
Becky Allgood	X	Nathan Sneath	X
Ken Snyder	X	Chris Brase	X

Also present was Kala Naber, Muscatine County Budget Administrator.

- A. Approval Agenda – Approved (Koellner/Sneath)
- B. Approval of November 19, 2024 Minutes – Approved (Harper/Sneath)
- C. Receipt of Financial Reports – Approved (Harper/Sneath)
- D. A motion was made to request \$10,000 from the Muscatine County Supervisors again this year. Motion was approved (Snyder/Brase)
- E. Terms are expiring for MCHPC Commission members: Becky Allgood, Mary Beveridge, Rebecca Bovenmyer and Lynn Pruitt. If they want to be considered for another 3-year term they individually need to email Nancy Schreiber.
- F. Furlong reported that she will be asking Sue O’Donnell if she would be interested in joining the commission and expects she will make application.
- G. A motion was made to appoint 2025 officers Chris Brase- President, Lynn Pruitt- Vice President, Becky Allgood- Secretary/Treasurer. Motion was approved (Koellner/Harper).

**Old Business:**

- A. **HRDP 2023 Grant Update for Wilton Historic Neighborhoods survey** – Allgood reported that this project is complete and she will send the link with this research to commission members. Next steps are that the Wilton CLG will work on getting these two neighborhoods listed on the National Register of Historic Places.
- B. **Fairport Fish Hatchery Update** – Pruitt reported that pavilion is completed and that this group is working on arranging a tour for the State’s Historic Summit in June.
- C. **Transportation Report** – The next step for this project is signage and each commissioner who worked on this should present a list of potentials signs.

**New Business:**

- A. **CLG Fruit and Vegetable Industry Update** – Furlong reported that research is ongoing on Conesville which was prosperous until just before WWI when the crops were infested with Wilt which devastated the industry. A Professor from Iowa State came to the Iowa

State Farm Station there and developed Hybrid Seeds which were resistant to Wilt. Brase reported that he is doing research through Ancestry website for the JW Rummells family. Sneath is doing research on Heinz. Kiwala has a lot of information for Fruitland Township. Jennifer Price wants to do a Zoom call to finalize site surveys.

- B. 2025 Summit hosting with the City HPC** – Pritt reported that this group has announced that the Merrill Hotel will be the site for this Summit. They are working on the agenda for the Summit and that suggested presenters are Jennifer Price for the Transportation Project, Lynn Pruitt for County Schools and Churches project and Sandy Stevens for the Fish Hatchery project, and that they will have a tour of the fish hatchery and host an Icebreaker at the beginning of the Summit. The State is still calling for more presenters. The next meeting for this group will be this Thursday at 2pm via Zoom.
- C. Underground Railroad Survey** –Koellner reported that he was working on Wapsinonoc area. Koellner stated that the earliest maps we have of the area Freeborns who owned land is 1874 and that there are 12 unmarked graves presumed to be freedom seekers. Pruitt also has been doing newspaper research on the Goshen Township. Brase also has done quite a bit of research.
- D. 2025 CLG Grant Submission for West Liberty Historic Grant** – Koellner reported that he received a letter telling him that West Liberty Historic Neighborhood received the CLG Grant for this project. The project total is 36,508 (\$21,096 from state, \$5,000 from City of West Liberty and the \$10,412 from volunteer work).

Next Meeting Date: Tuesday, January 21, 2025 @ noon at Muscatine County Administration Center

Meeting adjourned at 1:00 pm.

Minutes submitted by:

Becky Allgood, Secretary/Treasurer

Minutes Approved Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ by: \_\_\_\_\_