

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

**12 noon, Tuesday, August 19, 2025**

**Muscatine County Administration Building**

**Muscatine, Iowa**

**Members in attendance (X-present, E-excused, A-absent)**

Lynn Pruitt	X	John Kiwala	E
Michelle Elizondo	X	Joe Harper	X
Bill Koellner	X	Sue O'Donnell	E
Mary Beveridge	A	Nathan Sneath	X
Becky Allgood	E	Chris Brase	X
Ken Snyder	X		

**Visitors:** Michael Baxter and David Lerch

**Approvals:**

- A. Meeting called to order by Chair Chris Brase
- B. Agenda approved (Harper, Koellner)
- C. June 17, 2025 minutes approved (Koellner, Harper)

**Old Business:**

- A. **County Fair Report** – Everyone attending reported we had a good booth location and sold several books. Got to visit with several community members. Suggestion for combining with other county historic preservation organizations for next years' Fair.
- B. **Muscatine County Historic Jail** – The Community Foundation, which hold our Historic Jail donation fund of over \$5,000, requires us to start making expenditures from that fund or close down the project. Discussion needs to be held regarding the possibility of revitalizing that project or closing it down. A tour of the building was held following the meeting. Discussion and a decision will be schedule for our next meeting.
- C. **Historic Transportation** – Discussions were held regarding possible republishing the historic transportation book following the required corrections. No decision was made. The 26 signs have been delivered and several are ready for installation this week. Brase and Pruitt will coordinate their installation. Pruitt suggested an additional 10 transportation signs be considered at the next meeting.
- D. **West Liberty Historic Neighborhood CLG Grant** – The North Calhoun Street Neighborhood project which was on hold due to funding issues at SHPO has now been released for further work. Koellner reported the work is proceeding well. He suggested we considering applying for another CLG grant this year for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Street Neighborhood in West Liberty.
- E. **Underground Railroad Project** – Sneath was asked to check with the City HPC to see if they plan to publish the final report, and if not, if they would give the county HPC permission to do so.

- F. **Fruit and Vegetable CLG Grant** – Our consultant, Jennifer Price, reported that the final report has cleared SHPO and she is putting the final touches on it this week. Once that grant contract has been completed and closed out, the MCHPC needs to discuss the possible publication and sale of the final report in book form.
- G. **New Project Survey** – It was suggested that we have a discussion at a future meeting regarding new projects for the Commission to undertake.
- H. **Talking Trails** - At the informal June meeting, Brase reported that he will be exploring possible implementation of a trial program at the Fairport Fish Hatchery with Jim Elias.
- I. **Wilton Historic Neighborhoods Survey** – No report.

**New Business:**

- A. Mike Baxter presented information related to a historic paddlewheel boat which the owner wants to operate and display on the Mississippi River in the future. He requested our endorsement to dock the refurbished motor vessel at Fairport Fish Hatchery. He recognizes he needs to get clearance from the Corps of Engineers and DNR. Commissioners recommended that he try to dock the boat at the Muscatine Marina as the fish hatchery is not an appropriate location for this purpose.

Next Meeting Date: Tuesday, September 16, 2025 @ noon

Meeting adjourned at 12:45 pm.

Minutes submitted by:

Lynn Pruitt

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