



LINN COUNTY HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
935 Second Street SW • Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52404 • 319-892-5138

Minutes
November 15, 2023

Members Present

Maura Pilcher, Chair
Todd McNall, Vice-Chair
Barb Westercamp, Secretary
Steve Ciha
Hilary Copeland-Marvin
Kim Hanna
Matt Kenney

Absent

Michael LeClere
Nancy Kraft

Guests

Staff Present

Bradley Wylam, Staff Liaison
Jill Hansen, Recording Secretary

Call to Order

Chair Maura Pilcher called the meeting to order at 4:08 p.m.

Public Comment

Matt Kenney was introduced as a new member of the HPC Board.

Approval of Minutes

Motion by McNall, second by Hanna, those present voting aye, to approve minutes of October 18, 2023.



Announcements/Communication

Past Forward Conference

Westercamp reported on her recent trip to the Past Forward Conference in Washington D.C.. Westercamp presented the commissioners with items from the conference, including copies of the *Preservation* magazine featuring Bruce more.

Update on Bertram/Blue Bridge

Pilcher and Wylam are planning to attend the ribbon cutting in May. McNall inquired about the plaque that used to be on the bridge. Kenney asked for more information on the bridge project. Pilcher provided background on the project. Pilcher stated it was a successful Section 106 project.

FY25 Grant Program

Wylam presented the application which was used last year. Wylam asked commissioners to review and bring suggestions to the next meeting. Copeland-Marvin and Hanna to take the lead on the application process. Copeland-Marvin asked the committee to brainstorm on ways to get more engagement for grant applications. Distribution lists were discussed. Hanna suggested going to some of the possible candidates' meetings. Wylam displayed the grant contact list. Discussion was held on how to best update and keep the list current. A "Save the Date" email will be sent out as a test and to get updated contact information. Copeland-Marvin requested Wylam to send the list to committee members. Pilcher suggested a shared document that all members could edit and update. Wylam will send out the list. Members are to make initial changes and updates to the list. Pilcher suggested sending members to be guest speakers at different meetings. Pilcher suggested follow up with the National Czech Cemetery and others who previously did not receive grants. Pilcher felt the virtual help session did not have the engagement and suggested going back to in-person sessions.

Budget

HPC has a \$27,880 total. Approximately \$17,000 is allocated to the new kiosks. Ciha asked about an invoice from CR Signs.

New Business

None

FY 2024 Work Plan

Discuss & Decide – Extension Request – Save CR Heritage/FY24 Preservation Grant Final Report

A motion was made by McNall to give an extension until October 15, 2024, seconded by Hanna, those present voting aye. Wylam will do the follow up.

Lincoln Highway Kiosks

Ciha discussed the deficiency in framing. The requested fix was done on the Highway Patrol sign. Ciha reported the bracing and backer board has been added. Ciha and McNall agreed it was the best solution for the problem. It was noted that Mount Vernon and Lisbon signs need to be fixed, as well.

McNall made a motion if Ciha, McNall or another commission member approves the fix on the remaining signs then payment can be made for the signs, seconded by Westercamp, those present voting aye.

Ciha emphasized the commission must clarify the use of the original design in any new signs. Ciha indicated the next focus is on the signs at Abbe Creek and Wanatee Park. McNall mentioned working with Linn County Conservation to get funding for the kiosk replacement. Ciha wanted to get estimated price for budgeting. Pilcher agreed for Ciha to go ahead and get pricing.

Klinsky Farm NHRP Nomination

Wylam reported the first draft should be done before the end of the month. Once it is received, Wylam will send it out to everyone. Wylam asked for members to keep track of their time spent reading the report, as that can be used for the grant. Kenney asked for the history of this project. Pilcher explained it was a century farm applying to be placed on the National Register due to the many original buildings on the property. The house was built in 1846 and the barn was built in 1937. The Rural Preservation Initiative was discussed, as was the damage from the derecho. Deadline for draft comments was mentioned. Wylam said there should be a month to review it. Pilcher suggested a Zoom meeting with Impact instead of having a December meeting. Notice of a public meeting will need to be given so all members can attend.

Clemmons House

Update on the Clemmons House project was brought up. Ciha reported he was not in attendance at the Coggon Historical Society meeting as the work was already done. Copeland-Martin stated they did the work that was in the proposal. Wylam said the grant states to tell HPC what you are going to do. Copeland-Martin agreed. Ciha stated the work is complete and there was nothing to be done now. Pilcher thought it was okay and it fell under the "do no harm" concept. Westercamp agreed with Pilcher. It was concluded the money was given at the front end when the grant was approved.

Next Meeting

No meeting in December.
January 17, 2024

Adjournment

Pilcher adjourned the meeting at 4:52 pm.

Respectfully submitted,


Jill Hansen, Recording Secretary

Approved,


Maura Pilcher, President