



LINN COUNTY HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

935 Second Street SW ▪ Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52404 ▪ 319-892-5141

Minutes
September 16, 2020
Electronic Meeting

Members Present

Maura Pilcher
Amanda Happel
Todd McNall
Patty Soukup
Steve Ciha
Barb Westercamp

Absent

Michael LeClere
Richard Thomas

Staff Present

Mike Tertinger, Staff Liaison
Jessie Black, Recording Secretary

Special Statement : in accordance with Iowa Code Chapter 21.8, and to comply with current local Public Health guidelines limiting public gatherings, this meeting will be held electronically. Information on how to access this meeting has been provided on the meeting agenda, posted on our website.

Call to Order

Chair Maura Pilcher called the meeting to order at 4:04 p.m.

Public Comment

None

Approval of Minutes

Westercamp motioned, McNall second, all present voting aye to approve minutes from July 15, 2020 meeting as submitted.

Announcements/Communication

Tertinger told the commission Nancy Goodlove resigned. He forwarded her resignation letter to all commission members via email. He let the commission know that Britt Nielsen in Communications would be posting the vacancy on social media.

Tertinger said the commission should have received two final reports from FY20 grant projects; one from the Coggon Area Betterment Society and one from the Iowa Music and Arts Association. These projects can now be considered complete.



Tertinger forwarded an email to commission members from Paula Mohr for emergency funding. Deadline is today.

Tertinger said the NCSML event for August was cancelled, but they will try to reschedule.

Budget

Tertinger said the commission budget currently stands at \$9,525.00 in operating account. A \$20 registration fee for the Preserve Iowa Summit was recently deducted.

New Business

None

FY21 Work Plan

a. Wickiup Hill NRHP project update (Leah Rogers)

Rogers said review of the project has been extended until October 14th due to covid and the derecho. She said she's had a lot of discussion with the state preservation office and state archeologist's office about confidentiality. This project has been deemed archeological, so it will have to be confidential. Rogers said this means the nomination will show up on the National Register website, but the public will not be able to click on it to look at the nomination. She included all of the mound groups in the nomination. Rogers said they also found two new mounds in the process. She said the derecho caused a lot of damage at Wickiup Hill. They plan to go back out in the fall, once things have been cleaned up, to get more photos.

Rogers also said the Nietert/Hickman/Odd Fellows Building in Alburnett was severely damaged during the derecho, one week prior to her nomination submittal. If it is determined the building will remain standing, she will submit her revised nomination. Rogers said the building sustained a lot of water damage and the roof peeled off in the storm.

b. Linn County cemeteries storm damage discussion

Soukup informed the commission that she spoke with Supervisor Oleson and learned that per state code, each county is supposed to have a Pioneer Cemetery Commission. She suggested forming some sort of cemetery commission to get the ball rolling and assess what each cemetery needs. Oleson asked Soukup to present at one of the October meetings. Soukup explained that if a cemetery is not registered with the IRS as a 501(c)(3), it is not eligible for any funding or grants. She said the grants given to her three years ago will have to be refunded because Fairfax is not registered.

Pilcher and Happel insisted the grant application asks for tax EIN number, showing non-profit status, therefore, Soukup would've had to have provided proof of being registered as a 501(c)(3) during the application process. Soukup argued she did not provide such information. Tertinger will go back through Soukup's application to verify.

c. Lincoln Hwy kiosk storm damage discussion

Ciha informed the commission about each of the following kiosks:

1. Mt Vernon - no damage

2. Thomas Park - no damage
3. Lisbon - unknown, still needs to assess
4. Abbe Creek - no damage
5. Lincoln Hwy - damaged; missing pieces of siding, broken support post
6. Squaw Creek - McNall stopped by and reported no damage other than some bent metal on the roof that was likely there prior to derecho
7. Haskell Park - substantial damage; two posts snapped off, roof structure laying on the ground. Ciha would like to bring roof structure to his house to keep safe.
8. Highway Patrol - damaged; leaning to the south, posts not deep enough into the ground.

Pilcher wondered if grant funding wouldn't be the best way to repair kiosks. She also thought this might be a good opportunity to take kiosks down for a bit and revamp later.

Tertinger reminded the commission that \$10k of funds requested back for fall amendment are going to Leah Rogers, but \$9400 could go towards kiosk repairs.

Pilcher wondered who's responsible for ensuring the damaged kiosks are not a hazard to the public. Per Brad Ketels at Secondary Roads & Engineering, HPC is responsible, Ciha said. Ciha does not believe any of the kiosks are currently a hazard to the public. McNall asked if someone from the county could go assess kiosks also. Tertinger said he would invite LC Secondary Roads & Engineering and Conservation to join a future discussion.

McNall motioned to request \$9400 back in fall amendment for kiosk repair. Westercamp second. All in favor voting aye.

Happel motioned to pay Rogers' \$5000 invoice, Westercamp second. All others present voting aye.

Next Meeting

October 21, 2020

Adjournment - Motion by Westercamp second by McNall, those present voting aye, to adjourn the HPC meeting at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved,

Jessie Black, Recording Secretary

Maura Pilcher, Chair