



LINN COUNTY HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

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

Minutes October 21, 2020 Electronic Meeting

Members Present

Maura Pilcher
Amanda Happel
Todd McNall
Steve Ciha
Barb Westercamp
Michael LeClere
Richard Thomas

Absent

Patty Soukup

Staff Present

Mike Tertinger, Staff Liaison
Sue Bennett, 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 4:07 p.m.

Public Comment

None

Approval of Minutes

McNall motioned, Westercamp second, all present voting aye to approve minutes from September 16, 2020 meeting as submitted.

Announcements/Communication

The Preserve Iowa June 3-5, 2021 session proposals are due 11/10/20.
Reminder that the virtual conference for the National Trust, to be held October 27-30, 2020, still has room if anyone would like to sign up. McNall stated he would.



Paul Bruhn Historic Revitalization Grants Program is a new Historic Preservation Fund grant program created in 2018 that supports rehabilitation of historic properties and fosters economic development of rural communities. The program funds preservation projects for historic sites, including architectural and engineering services and physical building preservation through sub-grants to communities determined rural by the U.S. Bureau of the Census.

Eligible properties must be listed in the National Register of Historic Places or determined eligible for listing at the National, State, or local level of significance and located within rural (non-urban) communities with populations less than 50,000. States, Tribes, Certified Local Governments, and non-profits will apply for funding that will in turn be sub-granted to rural communities in their jurisdictions.

Budget

HPC has \$4525 left in the budget. The HPC Preservation Grant fund has a zero balance. We have committed an additional \$10,000 to Tall Grass Archaeology (Leah Rogers) as she is still completing the Wickiup Hill National Register nomination. HPC will need to ask for the FY20 end of year cash balance back during the Fall Budget Amendment period. That amount is approximately \$19,400. \$9400 has been allotted to cover the repair work needed on the kiosks and 10,000 for the Wickiup project.

New Business

None

FY21 Work Plan

a. Lincoln Highway Kiosk Storm Damage Discussion w/guest Rex Martin (Lincoln Highway Association of Linn County)

Rex Martin provided an update. The intent of the project originally was to provide a history of the Lincoln Highway in Linn County. He stated that the original kiosks were provided for by grant funds from Cedar Rapids, HPC and the Boy Scouts. The Boy Scouts also provided much of the labor for installation. He said the Lincoln Highway Association of Linn County doesn't have the funds to assist in the repair, but he will help any way he can. Rex also stated that he has post-derecho photos of most of the kiosks.

There are 3 kiosks with major windstorm damage: the kiosk on Mt Vernon Road, Haskell Park and the Mount Vernon kiosk (which was in bad shape before the storm). Caller #4 will update the master document with the derecho changes.

The Thomas Park kiosk is completely gone – it appears to have been sheared off at the bottom of the posts. Amanda contacted the city of Marion, and was told that the kiosk had been deliberately removed as they are doing construction & repair work in that area. Marion apologized and stated they weren't aware they needed to inform anyone. Mike Tertinger will contact Marion regarding this.

Discussion was had regarding the original agreements with the property owners, and where those agreements are. Mike Tertinger will reach out to Joi Bergman to see if Linn County has them. None of the kiosks are on private property.

Thomas stated the issue is this – do we want to fix the kiosks we have, or do we want to change them? The group discussed, and all agreed that the triage approach makes more sense financially and historically.

Thomas also suggested it might be possible to approach the property owners for assistance in repair the kiosks.

Next Meeting

November 18, 2020

Adjournment – Motion by McNall second by Westercamp, those present voting aye, to adjourn the HPC meeting at 5:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved,

Sue Bennett, Recording Secretary

Maura Pilcher, Chair