

WATERLOO HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING – November 21, 2023– 4:30 P.M.
The meeting was held in the Mollenhoff Room at City Hall

Chairperson Gilbert called the regular meeting of the City of Waterloo Historic Preservation Commission to order at 4:30 p.m.

Commission Members present were: Matthew Gilbert, Jared Hottle, Hector Salamanca Arroyo, Cole Weliver, Ed Ottesen, Nick Hedrick, Terry Stevens, and Susan Price.

Commission Member(s) absent were: Ivan Valtchev

Others present were: Lexi Schneider and John Dornoff - Planning Staff, Ed Gallagher – Grout Museum, and Tim Kuhlmann – Cedar Valley Historical Society

Approval of Agenda

Motion made by Ottesen, seconded by Price to approve the agenda of the November 21, 2023 regular meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Motion made by Weliver, seconded by Stevens to approve the minutes of the October 17, 2023 regular meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Oral Presentations

No Report

Hearings

None

Reports

1. Main Street

No Report

2. Silos and Smokestacks.

No Report

3. Grout Museum

Gallagher stated Matthew Gilbert is a new member of the Grout Board. The Civil Rights Exhibit is still up on the first floor of the Grout Museum. Kelly Sullivan has been helping a lot with the Grout and the Five Sullivan Brothers Plaza Dedication. The Executive Director at the Grout will be retiring on December 15, 2023.

4. Project Update

Schneider shared pictures of the Civil Rights Markers with the Historic Preservation Commission. Price noted East High School is the oldest school in Waterloo, to which Dornoff stated the former school off of Conger Street is the oldest school.

5. Highland

Weliver noted the Christmas wreaths in the neighborhood are up. Hedrick is planning the Christmas Party in the Park with another neighborhood resident.

6. Walnut

No Report

Discussion Items/Possible Action Items

1. School Art Project 2023

Stevens noted she has spoken with the Waterloo Public Library and they are willing to partner with the Commission on the School Art Project. They are able to provide a space for some workshops and the project should begin in January to give enough time for entries and to get the news out.

Gilbert asked if the school provides a space for the kids to complete the artwork, to which Dornoff noted the parents are often more involved in the project than the schools.

Gallagher stated the Commission could look into working with the Waterloo Center for the Arts too.

2. Main Street Waterloo Collaboration

Gilbert explained Main Street is getting ready for the holidays and he will be discussing the Historic Preservation Commission Banquet and Tour De Loo with Jessica next year.

3. Other Collaborations

Hottle introduced Tim Kuhlmann from the Cedar Valley Historical Society. Kuhlmann noted the Cedar Valley Historical Society is interested in having a member of the Waterloo Historic Preservation Commission speak to them on a topic such as immigration in Waterloo, endangered buildings in Waterloo, or the procedures for improvements on historic structures. Kuhlmann stated the Cedar Valley Historical Society meets the fourth Tuesday of each month from May to September at 7pm at the Grout Museum. The cost to attend the meetings is \$3 or \$7 for individual membership and \$12 for a family membership.

Gilbert explained he has been in contact with Jim Daye from the Waterloo Youth City Council. The Waterloo Youth City Council has a historic tour in October that they would be looking to collaborate with the Commission on. The historic tour is for the Youth City Council members

and their parents. The Youth Council has spoken with an individual to get a marker for the oldest school building in Waterloo.

Gilbert stated he called the Waterloo Human Rights Commission to find a representative for the Civil Rights Task Force. Gilbert also will meet with Nicholas from the Grout on the Civil Rights History Markers.

4. City-Owned Properties and Demo List

Schneider noted 1003 Vine Street is being filed on by the City to take through 657A. Noel will be meeting with the Commission on the Dunsmore House during the December meeting.

Gilbert noted the property on Lafayette Street is now a vacant lot after the fire damaged house was removed.

Hottle questioned what the structure at 1003 Vine Street was rated for significance, to which Schneider stated the property is rated as an A structure.

5. Maps

Dornoff explained and gave a tour of the National Register Highland Walking Tour Map. He noted the map shows the stories of each property in the Highland Neighborhood.

Hedrick asked if the residents can send him stories of the home if they have additional ones, to which Dornoff noted they can. Stevens questioned if there was much info on the Rath home, to which Dornoff stated there was little information on the Rath home.

Hottle asked if these maps could be placed on Facebook, to which Dornoff noted he can speak with Tara to get the maps on the Facebook page.

6. Goals and Action Plans

Schneider noted a few upcoming grants. Dornoff stated the Northeast Triangle Survey was paid for by a CLG Grant.

Gilbert asked the Commission if they would want to meet with City Council in January sometime to discuss their budget and the Dunsmore House. Salamanca Arroyo questioned if the City has any Commissions that run as a line item budget, to which Schneider stated she is not aware of any.

Gilbert noted a few possible uses for funding, such as a grant program to help rehab homes in Waterloo, workshops on historic homes and guidelines for contractors and realtors, and neighborhood survey's.

Discussion Items:

Schneider reminded commission members that the CLG Report will be coming due soon, so they should send their training sessions and hours, such as the Preserve Iowa Summit.

Schneider noted the National Register of Historic Places Workshop in Decorah went well and there was a lot of good information shared, such as different ideas for the CLG Grant.

Design Guidelines:

No Report

Adjournment

Chairperson Gilbert adjourned the meeting at 5:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lexi Schneider".

Lexi Schneider
Planner I