

WATERLOO HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING – January 20, 2021– 4:30 P.M.
Meeting was held by Zoom online meeting application

Hedrick called the regular meeting of the City of Waterloo Historic Preservation Commission meeting to order at 4:40 p.m.

Commission Members in attendance electronically were: Ed Ottesen, Terry Stevens, Nick Hedrick, Mathew Gilbert, and Susan Price.

Commission Member(s) absent were: Alice Rohret

Others present electronically: John Dornoff – Planning Staff; Ed Gallagher – Grout Liaison; Pat Morrissey – City Council Liaison; Brennan Dolan – Iowa DOT; and Wayne Castle – Waterloo Engineer.

Approval of Agenda

Motion made by Price, seconded by Hedrick to approve the agenda of the January 20, 2021 regular meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Motion made by Hedrick, seconded by Price to approve the minutes of the November 17, 2020 meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Oral Presentations

None

Hearings

1. Park Avenue Bridge

Brennan Dolan Archeologist with the Iowa Department of Transportation explained his responsibilities when it comes to doing research for the Park Avenue Bridge project.

The Park Avenue Bridge was funded by the Public Works Administration a New Deal infrastructure program. The bridge is individually eligible for the National Register of Historic Places but needs to be replaced.

Dolan explained the background of the project which is one of many projects being funded from a grant that the state of Iowa was awarded.

The team is determining what mitigation efforts should be done when replacing the bridge.

Dolan asked for two members of the commission to assist him to which Stevens and Price stated that they would assist in the project.

Stevens asked if the research only applies to the bridge area or the surrounding area to which Dolan responded that it was open.

2. Request for a Certificate of Economic Hardship to demolish 928 Mulberry Street.

Dornoff read the staff report.

Morrissey stated that this is the reason that the HPC should have a budget to help take care of buildings such as these.

Stevens asked if it was possible to bring in organizations such as Hawkeye, UNI, or even Habitat to rehab buildings such as this.

Gilbert stated that he has met with those organizations and would like to pursue working with them.

Stevens said it was important to have a more detailed history of the building and to search for grants to fix up the building.

It was moved by Stevens, seconded by Price to table the request until a history of the building can be completed, the search from possibilities to rehab the building, and for the building to be documented. Motion passed unanimously.

Building Consultation

None

Reports

1. Main Street

Several design reviews has come before the board.

Main Street is planning for Tour D’Loo although not sure how it is going to play out due to the current COVID situation.

2. Silos and Smokestacks.

No Report

3. Grout Museum

Museum is still open, the Imaginariam and Snowden house are not open and the museum itself is only partially open.

4. Building Update

Dornoff stated there was a group that looked at Rath but there is concern that due to water infiltration that the building may become structurally unsound if something is not done soon.

Dornoff stated that the owners of the courier building were recently here to look at the building.

5. Project Update

The Feds have extended the grant deadline for the Civil Rights project and due to COVID it may take longer to finish.

6. Highland

Discussion about people do changes to their buildings without permits and coming to the commission.

7. Walnut

Dornoff stated that Habitat for Humanity may look to turn the house on Iowa Street that was moved there as part of the US Highway 63 project.

Gilbert stated that there is discussions on the future of Walnut Baptist Church.

Dornoff stated that commission needs to think about Mt. Moriah Baptist Church to which Stevens stated that she will try to work with the owners of the building.

Stevens noted that the home oat Iowa Street and Dane Street was owned by Mrs. Minnie Powell and was the first African-American owned book store in Waterloo.

Discussion Items/Possible Action Items

1. Goals and Action Plan

Dornoff suggested commission members look over the goals and action plan over the next month and talk about it next month since it has been a couple of years since it was looked at in detail.

2. HPC Awards Banquet 2021

Dornoff stated that the commission will need to look at whether the May date is going to work as it looks like many organizations are looking to move things to September or later.

Gilbert suggested about looking at having the banquet virtually as he recently attended a banquet virtually and it had the best attendance ever.

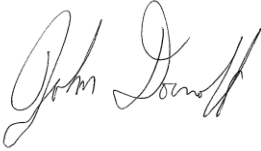
3. Demolitions/City Owned Properties

Morrissey noted that the Mayor is looking to quickly demolish as many dilapidated houses as possible in the next few months so more significant buildings may be lost to which Dornoff responded that he went through the list and 928 Mulberry is the only building on the list that is considered significant.

Adjournment

Ottesen adjourned the meeting at 5:45p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "John Dornoff".

John Dornoff
Planner I