

WATERLOO HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING – JULY 20, 2021– 4:30 P.M.
Meeting was held in the Mollenhoff Conference room at Waterloo City Hall.

Hedrick called the regular meeting of the City of Waterloo Historic Preservation Commission meeting to order at 4:32 p.m.

Commission Members in attendance were: Ed Ottesen, Susan Price, Matthew Gilbert, Alice Rohret and Terry Stevens

Commission Member(s) absent were: Nick Hedrick

Others present: Laura Hoy – Walnut Neighborhood Association; John Dornoff – Planning Staff; Pat Morrissey – City Council Liaison; and El Gallagher – Grout Museum Liaison

Approval of Agenda

Motion made by Stevens, seconded by Rohret to approve the agenda of the July 20, 2021 regular meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Motion made by Price, seconded by Stevens to approve the minutes of the May 18, 2021 meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Oral Presentations

None

Hearings

1. Historic Walnut Street (Faith Temple) Baptist Church discussion with Mathew Gilbert

Gilbert discusses the purpose of what he is doing with the former church.

He noted that Walnut was the home for well to do people before the period of redlining and disinvestment after World War II.

Habitat for Humanity is working to improve the Walnut Neighborhood and purchased the church as a way to help save the building.

Seeing lots going on in the Walnut neighborhood including all the work being done by Habitat, the new grocery store which hopefully will be under construction soon, and the work of the neighborhood association.

Hoy discussed what has happened in the neighborhood in the last couple of years and spoke very highly of everything that Habitat has done in the neighborhood. When it comes to the church Habitat has tried to stop water infiltration and cleaning up the first floor and basement. They have also worked with an architect to go over some options for the site. They are now ready for the dream stage on trying to vision the future of the church.

Gilbert had questions from a group of UNI students he is working with including:

-How does this relate to the work of the commission?

- Can tie in with John Deere foundation, UNI-CUE and others.
- Involve people on the eastside.

-How can the commission help support the project?

- Grant opportunities
- More involvement
- Strategic planning session.

Need to look for Tax Credit opportunities especially ones that can be transferred to a for profit.

What stakeholders need to be at the table?

- JSA, Banks, YMCA/YWCA

Still gathering community input.

Weekly meeting at Boys and Girls Club at 1pm.

Building Consultation

None

Reports

1. Main Street

Ottesen gave the Main Street update.

RAGBRAI is coming up.

Fridayloo and Irish Fest need volunteers.

Things are very busy from Main Street.

2. Silos and Smokestacks.

No Report

3. Grout Museum

Gallagher gave the Grout update.

Imaginarium has reopened now that new pumps have been installed.

Museum school is currently going on.

Desert Storm display goes through August 7th and ladies display through August 4th.

There is a Pacific War special exhibit.

Planetarium is being worked on and will probably take some time.

Garden tour went home.

Historic house tour is coming up on August 28th from 1 till 5.

4. Building Update

Dornoff gave the building update

JSA is working to fix up the building at 5th and Jefferson.

Schoitz Hospital will be torn down for new commercial project.

Reverend Holmes has passed away putting Mt. Moriah into an even more precarious situation.

The Lutheran church at West 4th and South may be shutting down and could be in danger of being torn down.

Crystal is building a new building and the future of their existing building is in doubt.

5. Project Update

Dornoff stated he has not heard from the consultant but the project needs to be done including a public hearing.

6. Highland

Dornoff stated that he has not seen progress at the house at 327 Highland.

100 Highland did not stain their fence like they were supposed but they also tried to sell the house but have taken it off the market so he will send a letter.

Homes selling well in neighborhood but Ottesen is concerned the new residents don't know enough about the neighborhood.

7. Walnut

Rohret reported that the two Sears houses will be on the Grout Historic House Tour along with another house in the neighborhood.

Dornoff noted that people stated that the two Sears homes would never be saved but now they have been remodeled and looking great. He also noted that the house at 408 Saxon looks amazing.

Discussion Items/Possible Action Items

1. Updating Goals and Action Plan

No action taken.

2. HPC Awards Banquet 2021

Dornoff noted that there will only be 5 weeks after the next meeting for the banquet which is supposed to be the last Thursday in September. In addition the food was going to be done by potluck which means that the commissioners will need to take action and commit to providing food or else the commission will look bad.

Morrissey suggest that the meeting go virtual because of the Delta variant and everything may be shut down in two months because people are going to die.

Dornoff noted that banquet was moved from May to September because the commissioners felt that things should be better in September.

3. Possible Award Winners

No action taken.

4. School Project

Stevens and Dornoff both felt that it was best to move the school project until the next May banquet.

5. Demolitions/City Owned Properties

Morrissey noted that Martin Peterson the City Attorney is doing a great job and is planning to use 657-A to force property owners to fix up their properties or get them in the cities hands so the houses can be fixed up before getting to the point they need to be demolished.

Design Guidelines

No Action.

Other Discussion:

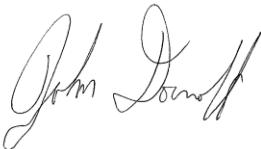
Dornoff noted that the Planning department has lost an employee so he has a lot of extra duties for the next year or more so some extracurricular projects will be put off or the commissioners are going to need to step up if they want things done.

Dornoff also noted that Paula Mohr has left the state and the job will not be posted to be filled until probably this fall which means that communication from the state may be lacking for the next few months.

Adjournment

Ottesen adjourned the meeting at 5:32p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



John Dornoff
Planner I