

WATERLOO HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING – October 18, 2022– 4:30 P.M.
The meeting was held in the Mollenhoff Conference Room at City Hall

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

Commission Members present were: Ed Ottesen, Mathew Gilbert, Terry Stevens, Susan Price Hector Salamanca Arroyo, Cole Weliver and Ivan Valtchev.

Commission Member(s) absent were: Nick Hedrick

Others present were: Lexi Blank – Planning Staff; Ed Gallagher – Grout Museum Liaison; Thomas Hayes - Applicant

Approval of Agenda

Motion made by Salamanca Arroyo, seconded by Valtchev to approve the agenda of the October 18, 2022, regular meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Motion made by Salamanca Arroyo, seconded by Valtchev to approve the minutes of the September 20, 2022 meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Oral Presentations

No Oral Presentations

Hearings

1. Request by Thomas Hayes for a Certificate of Appropriateness to allow for a new 6’ wood privacy fence at 1212 Independence Avenue

Blank gave the staff report. Thomas Hayes, applicant, explained he is requesting a 6’ fence to create some privacy between him and his neighbors. He noted he is not planning to stain the fence due to it being treated wood. Cole noted there are many 6’ fences in the district and there is one across the Boulevard from her house. She did not see any issues with the height of the fence being proposed.

Stevens made a motion to approve the request by Thomas Hayes for a Certificate of Appropriateness to allow for a new 6’ wood privacy fence at 1212 Independence Avenue. The motion carried unanimously.

Building Consultation

No report

Reports

1. Main Street

Valtchev noted the Iowa League of Cities Conference brought many compliments to Waterloo. The towers have been installed and are lit up at the W 4th Street Bridge. Hanging flowers have been taken down for the season and there will be fewer flowers returning next year due to the budget. Terry noted the Hawkeye horticulture students could possibly be a source for help with maintaining the flowers.

2. Silos and Smokestacks.

No Report

3. Grout Museum

Gallagher stated the remodeling project at the Grout Museum is ongoing and they seem to be on schedule. The Museum continues to stay open during the renovation and a dinosaur exhibit is planned for next year.

4. Project Update

No Report

5. Highland

No Report

6. Walnut

Valtchev noted the grocery store is progressing with construction and 425 Franklin started demo several weeks ago and has started construction on new elements.

Discussion Items/Possible Action Items

1. School Art Project 2023

Stevens mentioned changing the School Art Project to a city-wide art project. All members of the community would be invited to join, such as school-age children, college students, adults, and the older generation. A timeline for the project was presented. Terry asked about who else to get involved and who may be a good spokesperson. The commissioners mentioned Nia Wilder as a good spokesperson and getting members of different organizations to advertise for the project.

2. Main Street Waterloo Collaboration

No Report

3. Other Collaborations

Susan stated she attended the Cedar Falls Historic Commission meeting. The 3 members and a City Planner talked about new business in the city and old business. Susan said there was not much talk about preservation within the city.

Matthew noted the 415 Collective will be hosting a Community Brunch at 9:00am on November 5th at the First Presbyterian Church. This is a great time for commissioners to educate community members about the Historic Commission. A tour of 415 Walnut will be available before or after the brunch for commissioners.

4. City-Owned Properties and Demo List

No Report

5. Maps

No Report

6. Goals and Action Plans

Lexi summarized the Grant Schedule and Commissioners decided to have it included and updated in each month's packet.

Discussion Items:

Lexi noted the National Trust is looking for individuals to encourage Congress support for improvements to the Historic Tax Credit Program that will help funding for small improvement projects.

Design Guidelines:

Ed asked the commissioners whether they would like to set up the Design Guidelines by Historic District if additional districts were added to the city. Members said they would like to see separate guidelines for each district. Ed discussed the difference between rehabilitation and restoration and told the commission this will need to be kept in mind when creating the design guidelines.

Adjournment

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

Respectfully submitted,



Lexi Blank
Planner I