

**WATERLOO HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING – JANUARY 16, 2007 – 5:30 P.M.
MEETING ROOM B, WATERLOO PUBLIC LIBRARY**

Chairperson Ottesen called the regular meeting of the City of Waterloo Historic Preservation Commission meeting to order at 5:31 p.m.

Those in attendance were Anderson, Morgan, Newton, Olsson Ottesen and Quirk. Also present were staff members, Tim Andera and Candy Streed of Silos and Smokestacks.

Approval of Minutes

Motion made by Olsson, seconded by Quirk to approve the minutes from the December 20th, 2006 regular meeting as submitted. Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Agenda

Motion made by Newton, seconded by Quirk to add as item number six to Discussion Items, a Resolution approving the plan submitted by Tallgrass Historians for their evaluation of the John Deere Site at 400 Westfield Avenue. Motion carried unanimously.

Reports

Main Street

Ottesen gave the Main Street report noting the Elks Club would be going through an entire window replacement in the spring of 2007. Ottesen noted that the new windows are being donated and will match the existing windows in style and color. Ottesen also noted that at Main Street's last meeting, the board voted to approve the Bank Iowa sign, as well as the new Expo Grounds Tower. Ottesen also noted that recently Main Street members and volunteers took down the Christmas wreaths along 4th Street, Downtown.

Silos and Smokestacks

Candy Streed gave the Silos and Smokestacks report, noting that Silos and Smokestacks is offering three different grant programs in 2007. Streed noted that the General Grant will support sites and attractions to tell about American agricultural heritage, the Bus Grant, which would help fund transportation costs for students in the SSNHA to visit partner sites, and the Intern Grant, which would fund 50% of a summer intern's wages at a SSNHA partner. Streed also noted that in April, SSNHA will be hosting its annual conference at the Five Sullivan Brothers Convention Center on the 10th and 11th of the month. Streed also noted that on November 15, 2006, a 10-year anniversary party of Silos and Smokestacks designation as a National Heritage Area was held at the Five Sullivan Brothers Convention Center with over 200 people attending the event

Grout Museum

Ottesen noted that a bid has been accepted to begin construction on the new Veterans/Five Sullivan Brothers expansion, as well as establishing a proposed starting and ending dates. It was also noted that the bids for the project came in lower than expected.

Public Hearings

Vote to approve the Historical Comprehensive Plan completed by Thomason and Associates

Andera noted that the Commission needs to approve the plan so a work session can be set up with the Mayor and City Council for Phil Thomason to present the plan to them.

Motion made by Olsson, seconded by Newton to approve the Comprehensive Historical Preservation Plan completed by Thomason and Associates. Motion passed unanimously.

Election of Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson with term expiring December 31, 2007

Motion made by Newton, seconded by Quirk to elect Ottesen as Chairperson and Olsson as Vice-Chairperson of the Waterloo Historical Preservation Commission. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion Items

Kingbard Walking Tour

Quirk noted that recently she had talked to Alan McKean and he had noted to her that local realtors were interested in donating funds for signage and brochures for the walking tour. Andera noted that he would contact Alan McKean to get a list of possible interested individuals who were looking to donate money last year. Commission members discussed that there needs to be a designated location to pick up the brochures from, such as a booth at the My Waterloo Days Celebration, or at the Grout Museum District. Streed noted that the Commission should get into contact with Jodi Verbraken, who is the Chairperson for the festivities for My Waterloo Days. Newton noted she would contact Kevan Cortright to see if he is interested in donating money for the walking tour. Olsson noted that the Commission should begin getting quotes on signs and try and purchase a durable sign that is laminated and has some reinforcing plastic around the edges.

Historical Preservation Financial Report

Andera gave the Historical Preservation Financial Report, noting that the Commission has some money to use. Andera also noted that the Commission was interested in getting some brochures made for a walking tour of the Highland Neighborhood. Morgan noted that Sue Pearson has already gotten some information and photos compiled on some of

the homes in the neighborhood. Morgan noted that she would try and contact Sue Pearson to see if she would be able to present to the Commission what she has started. Andera noted that recently he had put up a poster at the front counter of the Planning and Zoning Department to begin selling the “Doorways to the Past” postcards and posters that the Commission had made a few years ago. Anderson noted that recently in the past, the Grout Museum and the Art Center had sold the items for the Commission and they should be contacted again to see if they would wish to do so again. Ottesen noted that the money in the fund could be used to purchase more Preserve America signs. Streed noted that the Commission should look at doing a cost share with another group of individuals, such as Silos and Smokestacks, the Convention and Visitors Bureau, Highland Neighborhood Board, or the Grout Museum to purchase more signs. Andera noted he would look into partnering up with some local entities.

Revision of the Historical Preservation Ordinance

Andera noted that recently the Commission had been working on a revision of the Historical Preservation Ordinance. Morgan noted that the Commission was working with Chris Wendland on a revision of the Ordinance, and also, since a new Historical Comprehensive Plan has been approved, the Ordinance needs to be rewritten to incorporate the plan into our historical preservation efforts. Morgan, Olsson and Quirk formed a subcommittee to review Historical Ordinances of other cities and to begin revising Waterloo’s Ordinance. Andera noted that he would find examples of Conservation Overlay Ordinances from other cities and forward them to the subcommittee.

CLG/Main Street Workshop - Waterloo

Andera noted that recently he and Ottesen were contacted by Paula Mohr from the State Historical Preservation Office about holding a Historical Preservation Conference in Waterloo for two days in June. Andera noted that Mohr noted that there would be some workshop training on the National Register Nomination, Section 106, as well as a craftsman demonstration. Mohr also noted she wanted to recognize the City of Waterloo and the Historic Preservation Commission for the adoption of the Comprehensive Historical Preservation Plan and wants to encourage other cities in the State to develop similar plans. Andera also noted that Mohr is interested in having the Historical Preservation Commission help out with the conference. The Commission discussed possibly sponsoring an intermission break and providing some snacks and drinks.

Highway 63/Walnut Neighborhood Plan

Andera and Anderson provided the Commission with some information and plans regarding the redevelopment of the Walnut Neighborhood. Andera noted that the plan looks at possibly having the Western Home expand at their existing site adjacent to the historical Walnut Court Apartments. Andera noted that Vanderwalle and Associates, who are completing the Downtown plan, noted that there is a severe need for senior housing and an assisted living facility in this area of the City. Quirk noted that the House of Hope near the Walnut Court Apartments is looking to expand as well. Anderson noted that currently the City has \$11.5 million earmarked for the redevelopment of the

Highway 63 Corridor from Highway 218, north to Donald Street, and the Walnut Neighborhood plan is a piece of the puzzle in revitalizing the corridor. Andera noted that some homes would be demolished and would need input from the Commission on the Section 106 process. Andera also noted that Vanderwalle has pinpointed a specific area in the Walnut Neighborhood for infill housing development. Andera noted that some of the homes could be saved and could be moved onto that specific block to prevent the creation of too many vacant areas.

Resolution Approving the Plan by Tallgrass Historian for 400 Westfield Avenue, John Deere site

Ottesen read the Resolution prepared by Andera, approving the plan submitted by Tallgrass Historians, which evaluated the John Deere, Westfield Plant, which noted that only two of the 36 buildings hold some historical significance. Commission members suggested that another “**WHEREAS**” section be added to the resolution, noting that a history and photos of the buildings will be compiled due to recordation requirements put forth by SHPO. Andera noted he would update the resolution.

Hearing no further discussion chairperson Ottesen adjourned the meeting at 6:39 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Tim Andera
Associate Planner
Staff to the Commission