

**WATERLOO HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING – FEBRUARY 19, 2008– 5:15 P.M.
MEETING ROOM A, WATERLOO PUBLIC LIBRARY**

Chairperson Olsson called the regular meeting of the City of Waterloo Historic Preservation Commission meeting to order at 5:19 p.m.

Those in attendance were: Berry (5:32 p.m.), Brockway, Morgan, Olsson, Ottesen, Potter, and Quirk.

Those absent were: Anderson and Newton.

Also present was staff member Tim Andera and Candy Streed of Silos and Smokestacks.

Approval of Minutes

Motion made by Quirk, seconded by Berry to approve the minutes of the January 15th, 2008 Regular Meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Agenda

Motion made by Morgan, seconded by Potter to approve the agenda as submitted. Motion carried unanimously.

Reports

1. Main Street

Ottesen gave the Main Street report noting that there were 5 or 6 reviews this month, noting that the committee reviewed such requests as the new Downtown Expo Grounds, and a cellular antenna on 500 Sycamore Street. Ottesen also noted that the National Trust would be visiting Waterloo on February 27th, and there would be a meeting at the Marsh Place Building at the corner of East 5th Street and Sycamore Street.

2. Silos and Smokestacks

Streed gave the Silos and Smokestacks report noting that there would be an informational session held in Maquoketa on the 3 grant programs that Silos and Smokestacks have available for their partners, as well as noting that grant applications are available from their website, with a final turn-in date of June 2, 2008. Streed noted that recently, Hardin County, which is a part of the Silos and Smokestacks National Heritage Area was designated as a Preserve America location, and noted that Silos and Smokestacks will be encouraging other communities and counties in the region to pursue this designation as well. Streed noted that on April 9, 2008, Silos and Smokestacks will hold their “Golden Silos” Award Ceremony in Cedar Falls, recognizing individuals and organizations who demonstrate excellence in preserving and telling the story of American agriculture.

3. Grout

Olsson gave the Grout Museum report noting that currently the museum is under budget for the new addition. Morgan noted that recently, the replica hull of the U.S.S. Juneau was in place of the main lobby.

Public Hearings

- 1. Request for comment from the Waterloo Historic Preservation Commission as a part of the Section 106 process for a proposed plan for GSS, Inc. on the behalf of U.S. Cellular Corporation (USCC) to co-locate multiple antennas on an existing building at 500 Sycamore Street (former President Hotel) at the southeast corner of Park Avenue and Sycamore Street.**

Andera gave a brief report, noting that the applicant is proposing to co-locate multiple antennas on top of the building at 500 Sycamore Street. Andera noted that the HPC is not a signatory for this project as it has been in the past for such Section 106 requests for John Deere and the Rath Packing Plant. Andera noted that USCC is required to publish a Public Notice in an effort to gather comments on the potential effects of the proposed facility on Historic Properties.

Ottesen noted that there are other cellular antennas downtown, such as on top of the Black's Building, noting that antenna is camouflaged very well. Brockway noted that he is fine with the proposed antenna as long as it does not cause any structural damage to the building. Ottesen noted that typically, an antenna such as the one being proposed does not weigh very much.

Motion made by Morgan, seconded by Potter to recommend endorsement and approval of the request to construct a cellular antenna on top of the building at 500 Sycamore Street as a part of the Section 106 review process. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion Items

- 1. Iowa City Historic Preservation Handbook – Conservation and Historic District Guidelines.**

Andera noted that Iowa City has conservation districts in place, and an ordinance is available online. Andera noted that this ordinance could be used as a template to begin basing our revised historical ordinance off of.

Ottesen noted that it appears that in the review process in Iowa City, that a request in a historic district is considered a major request, and requests in a conservation district is a minor request. Commission members questioned what the review process is for requests in conservation districts, as well as how Iowa City's ordinance reads on modifications to buildings in a conservation district. Andera noted that he would find additional information on how conservation districts are governed.

2. Historical Preservation Annual Awards Ceremony

Commission members noted that they were in favor of keeping the Annual Awards Ceremony at the Snowden House, noting the house has historical character, and the use of the house has worked well in the past for the ceremony needs.

Brockway questioned what properties have received awards in the past, noting that the Commission does not want to nominate properties again. Andera noted he would look into that, and see which properties have been nominated and received awards. Brockway and Potter both noted that awards should only be given to properties who have completed work, and not given to properties that are currently a work in progress.

3. Kingbard Walking Tour

Potter noted that there is no update at this time, and will begin making contacts here in the near future.

4. Historical Preservation Ordinance Revision

There was no discussion on this item.

5. Monthly meeting time discussion

Motion made by Morgan, seconded by Berry to move the monthly meeting time from 5:15 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. on the 3rd Tuesday of every month. Motion carried unanimously.

Hearing no further discussion chairperson Olsson adjourned the meeting at 6:05 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



Tim Andera
Associate Planner
Staff to the Commission