

**WATERLOO HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING – March 21, 2017– 4:30 P.M.
Mollenhoff Conference Room, City Hall**

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

Commission Members in attendance were: Ottesen, Jenson, Stevens, Jaacks, Orlando, and Price.

Commission Member(s) absent were: Linda and Orlando.

Others Present: Paula Mohr – State of Iowa, Pat Morrissey – City Council Representative and John Dornoff – Planning Staff

Approval of Agenda

Motion made by Jaacks, seconded by Jenson to approve the agenda of the March 21, 2017 regular meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Motion made by Stevens seconded by Jenson to approve the minutes of the February 21, 2017 regular meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Conversation With Paula Mohr

There is many grant opportunities coming up and Paula would be happy to look over any of our grant proposals except for the HRPD grant, which she is on the review committee for. CLG grants will need 40% match but that can be with in kind donations in addition to cash.

It was noted that the state legislature is looking at getting rid of the refundability of the state tax credit which would hinder non-profits trying to do historic preservation. There is also the possibility that the state tax credit fund will drop from \$45 million currently to about \$40 million. The certificates for the tax credits could also become first come, first served.

In addition, there is also concern on the federal level on what will happen to the historic tax credits. There is a possibility of dropping the tax rate for businesses, which will make the tax credit less worthwhile. Members are encouraged to contact their legislators in both the state and federal levels to inform them about the importance of the tax credits. It was also noted that President Trump has used historic tax credits in the past on his own projects. Ottesen asked about talking points and some of them include that they are good for small business and generate economic development. It was also noted that JSA is depending on the tax credits for the Walnut project or they have an option to back out.

In addition low income tax credits have dried up and it is unknown what their future is.

Jaacks noted that the tax credits are being sold as an asset and changes in the program could harm that marketplace which also benefits historic preservation.

Dornoff mentioned that there will be an RFP going out to survey the Walnut district but it only includes the area south of Argyle. Stevens pointed out that there is a lot of history in the area between Argyle and Dean and it should be researched. In addition Mohr said that it is better to be generous and include a bigger area to let the consultant decide is the best area to cover. Ottesen and Morrissey will talk to Anderson about the change.

At least one person from the commission must attend a training session and it is preferred that different people do the trainings. The Iowa Summit will be held in Fort Dodge on June 8-10th but several members of the commission will not be available, however Stevens will be presenting at the conference.

Reports

1. Grout Museum

Ed Gallagher was introduced as the new liaison between the Commission and the Grout Museum.

1. Annual Awards Banquet

The annual awards banquet will be held on May 4th at the Center for the Arts. Dornoff will send out a menu from the Laughing Tree café for the commission to decide what to have for food at the event.

JSA will also be willing to provide prizes and badges for all the participants, but they need more details.

Dornoff noted that he submitted an announcement to Tim Jamison of the Courier to get nominations for the Awards Banquet and also noted that Jamison asked that they receive information about the award winners quickly because in the past it has been six months before they have been sent anything.

Other Discussion:

Jenson handed out papers showing the information he has gathered for the Most Endangered building list that could be announced at the awards banquet.

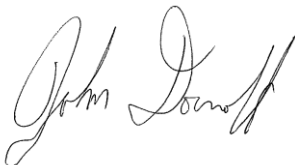
Dornoff noted he has a training session at the same time as the next meeting but Adrienne Miller will fill in for part of the meeting.

Mohr and Dornoff will be attending the Church Row Historic Neighborhood Association Meeting at 6:30pm.

Adjournment

Ottesen adjourned the meeting at 5:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



John Dornoff
Planner I