

**WATERLOO HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING – MAY 15, 2012– 5:00 P.M.
POLICE LIBRARY, CITY HALL**

Olsson called the regular meeting of the City of Waterloo Historic Preservation Commission meeting to order at 5:02 p.m.

Commission Members in attendance were: Ottesen, Potter, Andera, Linda, Berry, and Quirk.

Commission Member(s) absent were: Olsson.

Others Present: Poll- Staff to the Commission.

Approval of Agenda

Poll noted that he had received the State Historic Preservation office response to the Washington and Lincoln Park Local Landmark nominations and asked to add that item to the discussion items area.

Linda noted that she would like to add an item to the discussion items as well.

Motion made by Quirk, seconded by Potter to approve the amended agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Motion made by Quirk, seconded by Potter to approve the minutes of the April 17, 2012, regular meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Reports

1. Main Street

Ottesen gave the Main Street report noting that the first Friday'loo would take place on May 18th and that the following weekend was My Waterloo Days. Ottesen noted buttons were for sale for my Waterloo Days, which would get the wearer of the button into most events.

2. Silos and Smokestacks

No report was given.

3. Grout Museum

No report was given.

4. Rath Administration Building Project Update

No report was given.

5. Historic Home Tour

Olsson noted that they had 4 homes in the tour. Olsson noted that they had two homes in the Highland District and two were located on Hammond Avenue.

Discussion Items/Possible Action Items

1. Washington and Lincoln Parks Local Landmark Status

Poll noted that he had received the State Historic Preservation Response earlier in the day and distributed copies to the Commission. Poll noted that the response recommended more research needed to be completed before the State Office would recommend Landmark Status. Quirk questioned if Poll could talk to Mohr from the State Office and see if we would need to send the application back to the State Office after completing additional research. Poll noted he did not think the Commission would need to do that as the State Office was a recommending body, but noted that he would talk to Mohr and verify.

2. Project on Waterloo History

Linda noted that she had talked to Sue Pearson who noted that the Waterloo Public Library would like to start a project on Waterloo history for the purpose of educating the community and highlighting Waterloo's first citizens.

Potter noted that the Courier has been running a series highlighting prominent citizens in the 1950's and 1960's and noted that the Courier may want to run a series on historic buildings.

3. Dunsmore House

Poll noted that the historic Dunsmore house was up for sale and a realtor had mention that several offers have been placed on the property, most potential having the intent to demolish the home. Poll noted that after checking through some records, he could not find any documentation that this property had local landmark status. Poll noted that if the property was not a local landmark the Commission would have no review if the property was too be demolished. Poll noted that he did find that the City had first right of refusal, which means the City would have the ability to match any offer made on the home. Poll noted that he did not know if the City would have the funding or desire to acquire the property.

Ottesen noted that Poll should check through the records near when the Highland district was made a local district noting that the Dunsmore house would probably have been added about the same time. Potter noted that Poll should check and see when it was added to the National Register of Historic Places and it may have been locally nominated about that time.

Quirk questioned how much the current owner paid for the home. Poll noted that he was not sure. Quirk noted she would like to know and asked Poll to check with the County to get that figure as she felt the current owners may be trying to profit from the home.

4. Historic Preservation Awards

Poll questioned if everything was ready for the Historic Preservation Awards. Potter noted that the Brown Bottle was hosting the event, and would provide hot appetizers and noted that Commission members could bring cold food and sweets.

Poll noted that he would get the addresses and names of past winners to Potter so she would mail invitations.

5. Potential Locally Designated Downtown Historic District

Ottesen noted that he met with Jeff Kurtz, Donna Nelson, Vern Nelson III, and Mason Fromm. Ottesen noted that the Nelsons thought the local historic designation could be used to get State tax credits and

possibly get federal funding for the area. Ottesen noted that the property owners have concerns, and may not be in favor of adding another layer of regulation.

Berry questioned what the district nomination process would be. Poll noted that he would have to check the process, but noted it would be important for as many owners supporting it as possible. Poll noted he was not sure property owners got a vote for every building they own, or just one vote overall.

Linda noted it would be good to look at other communities like Dubuque to see how Main Street and the Historic Preservation District to coexist. Linda also noted the Commission should look at Iowa City and Cedar Falls. Linda noted we should find out if they have locally and/or nationally designated districts in the down town, and a Main Street commission.

Ottesen noted that he would get copies of the Main Street Design Standards for the next meeting.

6. Guideline Revision

Poll noted that there did not appear to be time to review the guidelines this month.

Adjournment

Motion made by Potter, seconded by Berry to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Adam Poll,
Associate Planner