

MINUTES
WATERLOO HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING - 4:30 P.M. June 15, 1999
FRANK MOLLENHOFF ROOM - 2ND FLOOR CITY HALL

The regular meeting of the Waterloo Historic Preservation Commission was called to order at 4:32 p.m. by Chairperson Peterson. Members present were: Aronson, Craven, Durbahn, Leonhart, Levi, Pearson, and Peterson. Staff members Noel Anderson and Terry Malone were also in attendance.

There were several corrections made to the Minutes of the June 15th meeting by Pearson, notably: a) a fragmented sentence which should have stated Durbahn's request for the expert opinion of a building inspector, structural engineer, or a historical architect, b) the misspelling of Annette Swann, c) removal of staff reference to 407 Almond serving as a model for volunteer rehab efforts. Pearson moved to approve the Agenda as amended and it was seconded by Durbahn. The motion passed unanimously.

Malone added one item for discussion regarding the updating of the permit system.

Candy Streed was present to report for Silos & Smokestacks. She passed out the Heritage Byways newsletter outlining the organization's current happenings. Streed made the announcement of the Silo's website which has received in excess of 14,000 hits to date. The possibility of the organization being funded by another department other than the Department of the Interior is looking more favorable Streed reported. The organization has received recommendations for reuse of the Depot building from The National Trust. Bloomington Prairie is one prospect interested in possibly reusing the Depot. That matter however was not discussed at length. Streed further informed the Commission of the intent of her organization to apply for a grant from the Historic Site Preservation Grant Program to use as a match to leverage other funding.

No one from Main Street was present to report.

The first and only agenda item was the request for a certificate of appropriateness by Western Homes representing Walnut Court. The request was to demolish the house at 415 Pine Street that was tabled at the June 15th Commission meeting. Pearson made a motion to table the item and it was seconded by Craven. Pearson distributed a four point statement and added a fifth, expressing some of her reservations on the matter.

Upon reviewing Pearson's points, Durbahn inquired why Walnut was never designated as an official historic district. Pearson informed the Commission that it was the responsibility of this body to initiate that process and that it was never pursued to any end. She further explained how to secure a grant to hire a consultant to conduct the necessary research. The meeting emphasis returned to the agenda item and Malone presented a video of 415 Pine.

After the video, Malone gave the staff report for the structure and the Building Department analysis. Anderson questioned what fairly compensating Walnut Court exactly meant in the staff report. Pearson mentioned having a meeting with Chris Hanson and Jerry Harris of Western Homes before the Commission meeting and was not aware of the request for monetary compensation or some other form of amends. Pearson's initial motion was carried in a vote and passed unanimously.

The meeting shifted to the four discussion items beginning with the formation of the sub-committee. Included in the agenda packet were forms from the Dubuque Planning Services Department and an internet printout of the Grand Rapids, MI Heritage Hill Historic Neighborhood. Pearson suggested that the Commission and staff revamp the entire process before establishing an advisory sub-committee. Pearson also requested that staff contact the Grand Rapids, MI Planning Department for a copy of their local historic guidelines.

Malone then updated the Commission about the permit application filtering process. A prospective plat application form was distributed for review. Currently the Planning staff is working to revise the plat application form to include several items for consideration when issuing a permit, one of which will be Historic Significance of the property.

Peterson announced that nearly the entire stock of "Doorways" posters were sold as of the week of 7/12/99. Peterson also resubmitted a letter to the Courier Editor expressing appreciation to contributing retailers and entities who are selling the merchandise.

Peterson concluded with the announcement of the Historic Resource Development Program training workshop scheduled for September 22, 1999 at the Waterloo Center for the Performing Arts. Pearson motioned to adjourn the meeting and it was seconded by Aronson.

With no further business, the Commission was adjourned at 5:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Terrance D. Malone
Staff to Commission
K:TERRY\HPCOMM\HISTMINUT.799