

**WATERLOO HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING – JUNE 19, 2007 – 5:15 P.M.
MEETING ROOM A, WATERLOO PUBLIC LIBRARY**

Chairperson Ottesen called the regular meeting of the City of Waterloo Historic Preservation Commission meeting to order at 5:25 p.m.

Those in attendance were Olsson, Morgan, Ottesen, Berry, Potter, Anderson and Quirk. Those absent were Brockway and Newton. Also present was staff member, Tim Andera.

Approval of Minutes

Motion made by Morgan, seconded by Quirk to approve the minutes from the May 15th, 2007 regular meeting as submitted. Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Agenda

Motion made by Olsson, seconded by Quirk to remove Discussion Items 3,4, and 5 from the agenda, and table until next month, and to add Training Sessions as an additional Discussion Item. Motion carried unanimously.

Reports

1. Main Street

Ottesen gave the Main Street report, noting that on the June 14th and 15th, the State held their annual CLG Conference in Waterloo at the Elks Club and Snowden House. Ottesen noted that Commission members Berry, Newton, Andera, as well as himself attended the 2-daylong conference, noting it was a good educational experience for the Commission members. Ottesen also noted that the deadline for CLG Grant Applications is August 31, 2007. Anderson noted that about a week before the conference was held, banners were put up on the light posts along 4th Street to add some additional color to the area.

2. Silos and Smokestacks

No Report this Month

3. Grout

Olsson gave the Grout Museum report, noting that they are still searching for more participants to be on the “Old Home Tour”, noting that one of the buildings to be on the tour is Hellman Associates, which recently received a historical preservation award from the Commission.

Public Hearings

No Public Hearings this Month.

Discussion Items

1. Moving Monthly meeting time back to 5 p.m. on 3rd Tuesday of the Month

Andera noted that recently that some Commission members are needing to leave early due to having other meetings that evening as well. Andera suggested moving the meeting time back to 5 p.m. to give the Commission an extra half an hour to discuss agenda items. Commission members came up with an agreement to move the meeting time to 5:15 p.m. for future meetings.

2. Update: Rath Administration Building/93-97 Vinton Street

Anderson gave an update to the current MOA process between the City, State and HPC being completed by Tallgrass Historians. Anderson noted that he, as well as representatives from the State, Silos and Smokestacks and the City met at Crystal Distribution to get the lines of communication straight between all groups. Anderson noted the main topic of conversation was whether or not a historic district still exists with the remaining buildings of the former Rath plant. Anderson noted that all parties agreed that there was no longer a district, or there was no chance of their ever being a district due to the dissection of buildings, and the long distance between 93-97 Vinton and the plant and Administration Building. Anderson noted that SHPO questioned if 93-97 Vinton Street would be able to be reused for the plans that Crystal has for the land. Anderson noted to SHPO at the meeting that the buildings do not fit Crystal's plan, and the buildings would not be large enough for their planned operations. Anderson noted that SHPO has requested the City market the Rath Administration Building, by making potential buyers aware of the Historic Tax Credits available through the State and Federal Government, as well as noting that the building is in the Enterprise Zone, giving additional tax breaks. Ottesen noted that he would talk to Terry Poe Buschkamp to see if she would be interested in putting the building on the Tour De'Loo tour in the fall, to make the public aware of the building once again, as well as noting to get former employees together to be able to share stories about working at Rath. Anderson noted that Crystal Distribution has recently bought one of the former bars down the street, and it going to put a Rath Museum in the building with Rath artifacts and other memorabilia. Olsson noted that we should still continue to look at mothballing the building as the Historic Preservation Plan suggests.

3. Kingbard Walking Tour

Ottesen questioned Potter if she would be interested in spearheading the tour, and begin to get residents, as well as other materials in place for the tour to happen. Potter noted she would take on the tour, and would search through the City directory for neighborhood residents, and see who would be interested. Andera noted that he had sent letters to neighborhood residents this past spring, and only heard back from about 10 who said they were interested in participating in the tour.

4. Annual Awards Ceremony Review

Andera noted that the Commission hosted a successful awards ceremony last month, with 3 individuals or groups receiving awards. Potter noted that next year, the event should be planned to have it on a larger scale basis, so that more in the community will be aware that Waterloo is becoming a community interested in historic preservation. Ottesen noted that next year, the ceremony needs to be planned out farther in advance.

5. Training Sessions

Ottesen noted at the recent CLG conference in Waterloo, at one of the meetings it was discussed that more education and training needs to be done by local historic commissions. Ottesen noted that Paula Mohr of the State said she would be more than happy to sit down and discuss and answer any questions the Commission may have regarding historic preservation and the importance it has for our State, as well as Waterloo.

Hearing no further discussion chairperson Ottesen adjourned the meeting at 6:25 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



Tim Andera
Associate Planner
Staff to the Commission