

**WATERLOO HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING – June 20, 2017– 4:30 P.M.
First Floor Conference Room, City Hall**

Ottesen called the regular meeting of the City of Waterloo Historic Preservation Commission meeting to order at 4:32 p.m.

Commission Members in attendance were: Ottesen, Jenson, Miller and Price.

Commission Member(s) absent were: Orlando, Stevens and Jaacks.

Others Present: Pat Morrissey – City Council Representative, Ed Gallagher – Grout Museum, and John Dornoff – Planning Staff

Approval of Agenda

Motion made by Jenson, seconded by Price to approve the agenda of the June 20, 2017 regular meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Motion made by Jenson seconded by Price to approve the minutes of the May 16, 2017 regular meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Hearings

No Hearings

Reports

1. Main Street

Main Street has their traditional summer events going on.

They Main Street committee has done a couple of sign reviews and has talked about sprucing up the deck hockey area.

2. Silos and Smokestacks.

No Report from Silos and Smokestacks. In the last meeting there was concern about Silos and Smokestacks due to possible funding cuts but Dornoff noted that Candy Streed was at the Preservation Iowa conference although he did not get a chance to introduce himself to her so at the present time

3. Grout Museum

The Grout board has been discussing the fixing up of the houses that are part of the museum and that a subgroup is responsible for maintaining the buildings.

Julie Zell contacted Morrissey about fixing the porch on one of their historic properties. Ottesen went over the difference between locally designated and federally designated. If using federal

funds or if it is locally designated it needs to come to the commission for an opinion. Morrissey was given the Federal standards and the city design guidelines by Dornoff and will take them to the Grout board meeting tomorrow. Grout looking to use more strict standards than federal to get fix the deck. Ottesen noted that it should be replaced with like materials.

4. Rath Administration Update

The city is exploring taking the building back however this is the first time the city has had to do a reversion to this extent so it will most likely take some time although it was noted that there is a group interested in the building and have done several similar projects around the Midwest. Code Enforcement is also working on getting the building secure again.

Discussion Items/Possible Actin Items

1. Walnut neighborhood RFP

Dornoff reported that the RFP went out on May 31st, and they are due on July 6th, with a contracted to be awarded by August 15th. Ottesen asked who would be assessing the RFP's to which Dornoff responded that it has not been determined at this time. It was requested that a member of the commission be on that committee.

2. Preservation Iowa Summit

Dornoff and Stevens attended the Preservation Iowa Summit although it Dornoff was not sure if Stevens attended any sessions besides the one she was a speaker at.

Dornoff attended a tour of the Warden Blocks in Ft. Dodge which is a large former Hotel that is being turned into apartments. A new plant is opening in Fort Dodge and it currently has a shortage of housing units. It was noted that this hotel has sever Asbestos issues similar to St. Mary's school which shows with the right developer things can happen. It was also noted that the building is largely made of concrete much like the Rath building which means it held up better than if it was made of other materials.

3. National Association of Preservation Commission July 18-22nd, 2018

Dornoff said that there would be no Preservation Iowa summit next year because the National Association of Preservation Commissions will be having their every other year convention in Des Moines in 2018. All were encouraged to put it on their calendars.

4. Most Endangered Buildings 2017

Jenson has completed his portion of the Most Endangered list but the other part still needs to get down which includes the Dunsmore House, 516 and 521 Pine, 408 Saxon, and the Walnut Baptist Church. Price and Miller will split those properties and get those completed so that Dornoff can send them to Tim Jamison at the Courier and have put an announcement on the city's new Facebook page.

Morrissey noted that the Dunsmore has been brought up in the last 3 building meetings and it was suggested that the Historic Preservation Commission take it on as a project and search for funding that way. It was asked if the building could be moved but thought is that because of the type of construction the building would crumble if you tried to move it.

It was also noted that the Dunsmore house is in an area that is considered blighted and that could help with finding funding for restoration and updating. In addition the building sits right off of US Highway 63 which would help in it attracting visitors to the building.

There was discussion of it being used by the African-American museum but nothing came of that.

There was discussion on what the commission could do with the property. Does the Grout have any artifacts or information about the building? Would they have funding to help with the project?

Dornoff will research examples of a historic commission taking over responsibility for a building like the Dunsmore House.

5. Highland District

Dornoff noted that he had discussions with the building department and at the present time the permitting system is not flagging properties that are in the Highland Historic District thereby it is possible that permits could be issued in that area without the Certificate of Appropriateness from the commission. However, Jennifer Sparks the permit writer went through the permits and did not see any permits issued that recently except for the one project that was previously approved by the commission. Dornoff has given Sparks a map of the district in order for her to flag permits for the area.

The commission's new member that represents the Highland district R. Miller mentioned some of the issues currently facing the district including crime and a large number of homes for sale in the area. R. Miller will talk to the neighborhood association and Dornoff noted that he could attend the meetings to discuss the commission.

6. Most Endangered Buildings List 2018

Dornoff noted that while the commission is finishing up the 2017 list, the members could start thinking about buildings to nominate for the 2018 list so that it is ready for the 2018 Awards Banquet and to be announced publicly.

7. City Owned Properties/Demo List

Ottesen discussed that every month there is a meeting about dilapidated housing and that many of these buildings end up getting torn down and are in possible historic districts. The city now owns 809-811 E 4th Street which is in the Walnut Neighborhood although it was not known if it would fall under the Walnut demolition moratorium. In addition the city is actively pursuing St. Mary's school and church and wants to demo them. The city will also be demoing the Castle Apartments, 120 Center Street, the church at 2nd and Wellington, 613 W 7th Street, and an apartment building at 1100 Grant in the coming year.

8. Funding

Dornoff noted that Michelle Weidner the Chief Financial Officer for the city had been going through previous minutes and noted that the commission had a presentation from the Community Foundation. Since the commission is part of the city any grant funding that the commission receives the city has to account for.

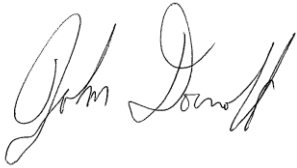
9. Survey/Website/Facebook

Dornoff said that the city now has a Facebook page but needs to go through Wendy Bowman to be posted to the site. Dornoff will also find out who the commission needs to go through to get its portion of the website up and running.

Adjournment

Ottesen adjourned the meeting at 5:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "John Dornoff". The signature is written in black ink on a white background.

John Dornoff
Planner I