

MINUTES
WATERLOO HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING – 4:30 P.M. – TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2002
MOLLENHOFF CONFERENCE ROOM – 2ND FLOOR CITY HALL

Chairperson Levi called the regular meeting of the Waterloo Historic Preservation Commission to order at 4:42 p.m.

Members present were: Braley, Durbahn, Leonhart, Levi, Pearson, Etheredge, and Aronson, and staff members Noel Anderson and Melissa Edsill.

Chairperson Levi started the meeting by calling for approval of the minutes of the August 20, 2002 meeting. Levi pointed out a couple of grammatical errors in the minutes. It was motioned by Durbahn and seconded by Etheredge to approve the corrected minutes. The motion passed and carried unanimously.

Levi called for the approval of the agenda with the amendment of moving the second agenda item to the first because the applicants were present for their agenda item. Pearson motioned to approve the amended agenda, Aronson seconded the motion. The motion passed and carried unanimously.

Candy Streed presented the report for Silos and Smokestacks this month. Streed noted they had moved their offices into the Russell Lamson building. Streed also mentioned Silos was working on grants that supported historic preservation in the agricultural industry.

Etheredge gave the Main Street report for September. She pointed out Mainstreet's design guidelines are far too vague and will be working to revise them using some of the information she and Pearson received at the Historic Preservation workshop they attended the previous weekend. Etheredge also mentioned there would be a SSMID (Self Supported Municipal Improvement District) breakfast on Thursday, September 19 at 7:30 am. The topic for the breakfast would be promoting historic preservation as an economic boost in the downtown.

The Commission moved to the discussion of first item on the agenda: The request by Michael Douglas, owner, 126 Prospect Avenue for a Certificate of Appropriateness for the replacement of existing aluminum siding with vinyl siding. Edsill gave the staff report noting that the applicant was requesting to replace the existing aluminum siding on the first story of his home with vinyl siding. Mr. Douglas addressed the commission simply stating that the aluminum siding that was currently on his house was in poor condition and would like to replace it with something that will be easier to maintain and to make the house more valuable and look better. Mr. Douglas also noted that he did not intend to or the additional funding that would be needed to replace the siding with wood lap siding. It was motioned by Pearson to deny the request and seconded by Durbahn. The Commission took this opportunity to introduce themselves to the applicants. A discussion ensued about the issue of synthetic siding on a historic house. Pearson noted the Commission had not approved vinyl siding replacement and would like to have the applicant explore what material was under the aluminum siding. Levi stated that the guidelines the Historic Commission reviews are the Department of the Interior Standards and not something the City of Waterloo has devised. Mr. Douglas offered to amend his request to replace the existing aluminum siding with new aluminum siding. The Commission discussed this option and recommended the applicant determine what material was under the aluminum siding for possible restoration of the original material. Mr. Douglas stated he would not investigate what material was under the aluminum siding. Mr. Douglas reiterated he was only interested in receiving a yes or no answer today from the Commission. Pearson moved to deny the request, Durbahn seconded and motion passed and carried unanimously.

The Commission continued with the next request by Prairie Construction for a Certificate of Appropriateness to replace the East Porch at the Snowden House, 306 Washington. Edsill gave the staff report, pointing out the House was listed on the National Register for Historic Places in 1978. It was motioned by Etheredge to deny the request, seconded by Leonhart. The Commission briefly discussed the request not providing enough detailed information pertaining to the replacement of the ornate porch. The motion passed and carried unanimously.

The Commission moved on to the final agenda item, a request by Andy Mills on behalf of Ray Richard for a Certificate of Appropriateness to re-roof and re-shingle part of the roof at 224 Highland Boulevard. Edsill gave the staff report specifically noting that the Iowa Site inventory Form did mention that this uncommon variation of the Tudor Revival style was rarely used in the Highland Neighborhood and this is the only example of this variation in Waterloo. Pearson motioned to table the request in order to gain more information or have the home owner or contractor in attendance. Aronson seconded the motion. The Commission discussed the fact that the application was too vague for the Commission to clearly tell what was going to be done to this unique home. Pearson amended her original motion and made a motion to deny the request due to lack of information. Braley seconded the motion. The motion passed and carried unanimously.

The Commission moved on to the discussion items. The first discussion item was the amendment to the Historic Preservation ordinance. Pearson and Etheredge briefly discussed the information that was discussed at the work session they attended the previous weekend in Cedar Rapids. It was determined that at October's meeting the Commission would form a subcommittee to address the amendment to the ordinance. The Commission directed Staff to draft a rough draft of a new application using the City of Dubuque's application as a guide for October's meeting.

Before the Commission adjourned, Braley presented Levi & Edsill copies of his resignation from the Historic Preservation Commission. Braley asked Levi to read the letter aloud so the rest of the Commission could hear that Braley enjoyed his time on the Commission, but was unable to fulfill his future commitment to the commission as other activities were requiring his time. The Commission thanked Braley for his time and expertise while on the Commission and he would be deeply missed.

With no further discussion, it was moved by Braley, seconded by Aronson to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed and carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 6:20 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Melissa Edsill
Associate Planner
Staff to Commission