

**WATERLOO HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING – October 18, 2016– 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 4:38 p.m.

Commission Members in attendance were: Ottesen, Stevens, Jensen, Price, Linda and Jaacks

Commission Member(s) absent were: Orlando

Others Present: Pat Morrissey City Council representative, Adrienne Miller and John Dornoff – Planning Staff

Approval of Agenda

Motion made by Linda, seconded by Jensen to approve the agenda of the October 18, 2016 regular meeting with an amendment to talk about a Survey. Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Motion made by Jensen seconded by Linda to approve the minutes of the September 20, 2016. Motion carried unanimously.

Hearings

There were no hearings scheduled.

Reports

No Reports

Discussion Items/Possible Action Items

1. Discussion with Chris Western

Western talked noted that he had 18 properties survey for asbestos and then they would be demoed. He noted that there are the two charges on Walnut that need to be fixed up or else it would only be a matter of time before they come down. The commission needs to talk to the pastors/owners of the churches and see what can be done to fix them up.

Linda noted that the planners from Dubuque mentioned that they changed the code so that when properties get in distress the cities fines them heavily and tries to avoid having houses boarded up and looking bad.

Ottesen asked if there was a property maintenance code.

Western said that the code needs to be revamped.

Morrissey asked what would be there instead

Linda stated that something that allowed for some sort of legal way to insure that homes are kept in good condition. Money to do repairs those homes that need help.

Western noted that most of the homes that he gets are from people who are either in nursing homes or have passed away and the family is out of town and walks away from the property. There are attempts to find the people but it is often hard. Unfortunately, the law will not allow us to put a lien on the owner's current homes. The other problem is that 90% of the time homes are sold and nothing gets done with them. There is no large-scale rehabs done by the city and many of the homes are large homes that are difficult to keep up.

Jaacks said that another problem is that it just not individual homes that are dilapidated but entire blocks of them.

Stevens stated the problem is people are rather just build a new home.

Morrissey said that there should be money in the CIP for historic preservation. Need to come up with some type of project and ask for funding.

Western also noted that there are at least 200 to 300 targeted homes right now in the city.

Ottesen said that the commission never gets money from the city, and what would the city loose if the HPC went away? The HPC does provide benefits but don't get anything back from the city, the city needs to be backing the HPC.

Linda noticed that according to the ordinance establishing the HPC, there should be funding from the city.

Ottesen asked Western what he would do?

Western said that there is a host of problems such as Community Development getting their funding from the HUD cut every year. The city needs to find something to fill the gap, and work toward fixing up the homes before they have to come down. Another solution would be to revise the 657a policy.

Ottesen said we need to get good incentives.

Morrissey said that there is buyer for every home; we just need to find them.

Western said that there needs to be a good marketing campaign that will bring buyers in. Linda said that there is a group of people who want to live in the neighborhoods.

2. Meeting with Dubuque Officials

Linda said that her main take away from the meeting with the Dubuque officials is that there needs to be more dialogue with city officials. The people from Dubuque were shocked that we have a Strong Mayor form of government and the mayor has to run for election every two years. Need to do things like get boarded up homes taken care of so they don't bring down rest of the area.

Western said that revolving loan funds have not worked.

Price said mentioned that in Dubuque, they have a city manager that they can go to that has been there since 1993. Need to go to Noel Anderson and have a meeting with him on what can be done. Need to discuss three things:

1. Survey of Walnut/Triangle Neighborhood
2. Work on Housing
3. HPC not living up to mandate.

Then need to have meeting with the mayor.

Morrissey said that the mayor should be asked to be at the meeting with Anderson and Ottesen. Need to point out that we cannot expect CLURA and CURA to solve our problems. Need to rehabilitate older homes.

3. Survey

Linda said that Courier would publish an article from the HPC but not an article. They suggested some sites to use for the survey such as SurveyMonkey. Then the question was asked what name should be used for the survey since it is about the Triangle area and the Walnut District.

Ottesen said that the name Historic should not be in the survey since it is not a designated historic district.

Morrissey noted that Church Row does add the term Historic to its name despite not having designation as a historic district even though it should be one.

Linda also noted that it assumes that the HPC is funded.

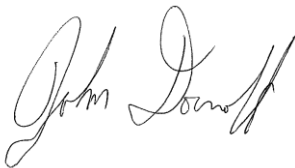
4. Discussion

None

Adjournment

Ottesen adjourned the meeting at 5:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John Dornoff".

John Dornoff
Planner I