

**WATERLOO HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING – OCTOBER 20, 2009– 5:00 P.M.
WATERLOO PUBLIC LIBRARY – 405 COMMERCIAL ST**

Chairperson Quirk called the regular meeting of the City of Waterloo Historic Preservation Commission meeting to order at 5:02 p.m.

Commission Members in attendance were: Andera, Berry, Olsson, Ottesen, Potter and Quirk. Newton arrived at 5:13 pm.

Commission Member(s) absent were: Brockway, Morgan

Also present was staff member Adam Poll, David Deeds and Councilman Steve Schmit

Approval of Minutes

Motion made by Potter, seconded by Ottesen to approve the minutes of the September 15, 2009 regular meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Agenda

Motion made by Olsson, seconded by Potter to approve agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

Reports

1. Main Street

Ottesen gave a report on Main Street activities and noted that Main Street was in the process of obtaining recertification through the Iowa Department of Economic Development as well as noting some that Main Street was in the process of various sign approvals. Ottesen noted that work had commenced on the former location of Newton's, and that it was being converted into a diner.

2. Silos and Smokestacks

No report was given.

3. Grout Museum

Olsson noted that the Grout museum was planning an anniversary celebration and that it would have a World War 2 canteen theme as well as noting that the Grout Museum helped plan the cemetery tour.

4. Rath Administration Report

Andera reported the building was now in the developers name and the nearby human services campus was continuing to make progress.

5. Russell Wagner House

Poll noted that he had been contacted by the staff at the Russell Wagner House who had informed him that they would be performing maintenance on the exterior of the building which included

repainting the shutters and columns, as well as replacing damaged boards on the porch but that no physical changes would be made and this was routine maintenance.

Newton arrived at 5:13 pm.

Discussion Items/Possible Action Item

1. Ordinance Revision

Quirk noted that due to illness of several commission members, an updated revision was not available.

2. Guidelines Revision

Quirk noted that due to illness of several commission members, an updated revision was not available.

3. The Fowler Building- Now listed on the National Register

Poll noted that the Fowler Building application to the National Register of Historic Places had officially been accepted.

Other Discussion Items

Ottesen asked about the progress of the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) that was being drafted to mitigate the loss of the historic Sans Souci neighborhood due to the Flood of 2008. Andera noted that staff was working to revise the budget as the State had recently informed him that total funding available would be between \$50,000 to 60,000 for both the downtown historic survey as well as the publication for the history of the San Souci neighborhood. Andera commented that the original estimates had called for about \$120,000 in funding and staff was working to bring the budget down to acceptable levels. Andera noted that as part of the documentation of the history of the Sans Souci neighborhood the Grout Museum was planning on conducting video interviews to document as oral history of the island. Quirk noted that the University of Northern Iowa had staff members that specialized in oral history.

Potter noted that Sally Kelly of 234 Prospect Ave who had applied for a certificate of appropriateness in order to replace her original wood shutters with vinyl replacements had located historically accurate wood shutters at an affordable price.

Andera noted that he had spoken to Rod Scott and been informed that Rod was lobbying for a bill to be passed that would allow tax credits to be obtained for the construction of condos in historic buildings.

Quirk asked Councilman Steve Schmitt his stance on historic preservation, as he was a candidate for the upcoming mayoral elections. Schmitt noted that he was supportive of historic preservation and considered himself open-minded. Schmitt added that he had been to other towns in Iowa specifically noting Dubuque and said he had noticed how historic preservation had improved the community.

Berry noted his concern that the current building codes do not deal with the restoration of historic properties and the scenarios faced in restoring some elements including front porch railings. David Deeds noted that the building official in Dubuque had dealt with similar issues and allowed

historic properties to reconstruct historically accurate porches and other changes as long as safety was not compromised.

Potter left at 5:28 pm.

Berry noted that current building codes required a 36" handrail, and in several historic properties around Waterloo several historic handrails were 30" tall or lower. Deeds noted that this type of handrail was fairly common in turn of the century homes in the area. Poll noted that he and Andera would contact with other building officials in Iowa and see if they had special allowances for historic properties.

Newton noted that she would be spending the winter in Arizona and would not be available till April.

Hearing no further discussion Potter motioned to adjourn the meeting, Andera seconded. Meeting was adjourned the meeting at 5:36 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Adam Poll,
Associate Planner
Staff to the Commission