

## LISBON HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

### Minutes of Meeting

February 21, 2023

1) The meeting was called to order by Chair Rebecca Hess at 4:30 p.m. Present: Rebecca Hess, Amelia Kibbie, Marc Mohn, and Ann Opatz. Guest: Council Liaison John Bardsley.

2) Moved by Opatz, seconded by Mohn, to approve the agenda. The motion passed on a voice vote of 3-0.

3) Moved by Hess, seconded by Mohn, to approve the minutes of the January meeting. The motion passed on a voice vote of 3-0.

4) Updates

Vacancy on LHPC: One position remains open on the LHPC.

CLG Annual Report: Opatz reported that the 2022 CLG Annual Report has been submitted. As required, a summary of the report was presented to the City Council at its February 13 meeting.

Silos & Smokestacks Collaboration: Opatz reported that Candy Streed of Silos & Smokestacks will be visiting Lisbon in March for a discussion of the Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Lisbon and Silos & Smokestacks National Heritage Area. The Memorandum of Understanding will formalize the designation of Pleasant Grove Heritage Park as an Emerging Partner Site with Silos & Smokestacks. Opatz will ask City Administrator Brandon Siggins and Parks & Rec Director Drayton Kamberling to organize the meeting that will include Siggins, Kamberling, Robert Zahorik, Council Liaisons Sara Nost and Nate Smith, and representatives from the Parks & Rec Board, Tree/Nature Park Board, History Center Board, and LHPC.

Destination Iowa Grant: Hess reported that Parks & Rec Director Kamberling contacted the Iowa Economic Development Authority (IEDA) to inquire about the status of Lisbon's Destination Iowa grant. He was informed that IEDA is still reviewing applications, noting that a large number of applications was received during December and that it may be another 2-3 months before final awards are announced. Opatz sent an email to Kamberling and Robert Zahorik encouraging them to continue their planning efforts for the park and to request City funding to get started with the prairie restoration and/or rain gardens yet this spring. She also provided a list of possible grants to pursue to help with the costs of these projects. Kamberling responded that there are no funds in the current year budget or the FY24 budget designated for the development of Heritage Grove.

Lincoln Highway Interpretive Sign: Hess reported that City Administrator Brandon Siggins has approved the use of \$2,000 from the LHPC budget for Lisbon's contribution toward the new Lincoln Highway interpretive sign. The sign has been ordered and will be installed in Lincoln Park in the coming months.

(Amelia Kibbie arrived.)

Tour of Main Street Historic District: Opatz reported that she added building descriptions to the tour script. Kibbie is planning to offer a tour to Lisbon alternative high school students in the spring, and a separate tour open to the public at a later date. Kibbie also plans to offer the tour as a field trip to interested Lisbon students. It was noted that the script is lengthy and can easily be edited/tailored to particular audiences.

Chew on This Event with History Center of Cedar Rapids: Jenny Thielman of the History Center in Cedar Rapids would like to offer a “Chew on This” dinner presentation showcasing the Lisbon Main Street Historic District. This would be an indoor, seated version of the guided walking tour sponsored by Hills Bank in October of 2022. The History Center of Cedar Rapids will handle all publicity, registration, and other details, and has asked LHPC for photos for the PowerPoint presentation and for its recommendation for a venue that would hold 20-30 people for dinner. The cost is \$20/person and each participant will be responsible for the cost of his/her own drinks and meal. She is looking at May 23 or June 27 as possible dates. Discussion followed regarding the importance of hosting this event on Main Street. Opatz will talk to Gwen Drahos to ask if she would be willing to open her restaurant for this event.

Library Building Rehabilitation Project: Hess reported that she has reminded the Friends of the Lisbon Public Library to request an extension of its \$5,000 grant from the Linn County Historic Preservation Commission since the work funded by the grant will not be completed until after the March 15 deadline for filing a final report on the grant expenditures. Hess reported that the Friends of the Lisbon Public Library will be working with Bennett Painting & Decorating to schedule the window work and fire escape painting this spring. Work on the metal sills, sealing the brick, and adding artwork to the fire escape may be done at some point in the future.

Downtown Reinvestment Grant Program: Hess reported that she is working on updating the supplementary documents that will be posted with the new guidelines. It was suggested that the City announce and post the new guidelines, with the updated supplementary documents added at a later date. Hess will follow up with City Administrator Siggins.

Google Drive Issues: Hess reported that she is waiting to hear from Scott Cannon.

Photo-Op Cutout: We will work on this as time permits.

##### 5) History Center Building Rehabilitation Project

Discussion and Possible Action on Estimates for Paint Abatement and Masonry Rehabilitation: Discussion centered on the two new estimates received for paint removal and masonry rehabilitation of the west wall. She sent a list of follow-up questions to the contractors and hopes to have revised estimates to present to the Council at its February 27 meeting. The original estimate from BSM is also under consideration, and City Administrator Siggins is following up with BSM to ensure the original estimate is still valid.

Hess and Opatz met with City Administrator Siggins to review these estimates and discuss funding options for completing both the paint removal and masonry rehabilitation projects during the 2023 calendar year (paint abatement in FY23 and masonry rehabilitation in FY24).

Opatz reported that the History Center Foundation has been granted a one-year extension of

its \$5,000 award to support the masonry project. That funding, along with the \$22,000 HRDP grant, will provide \$27,000 in grant funding for the masonry project.

Discussion and Possible Action on Purchase of a Time Lapse Video Camera: Mohn reported that a good camera could be purchased for about \$250. He will email some options for our consideration.

#### 6) Meyers Farmstead Historic District

Discussion and Possible Action on Proposal from OPN Architects for Preservation Plans for Structures in Meyers Farmstead Historic District: This item was tabled at the January meeting, pending word on the Destination Iowa grant. The Destination Iowa grant includes a request for \$24,150 for the preparation of preservation plans for the three structures in the Meyers Farmstead Historic District.

Hess has been in communication with James Peters from OPN to request an alternate proposal for a more focused effort to address the most pressing needs of the barns that will provide us with a plan to fill the gap between the work that Blinks is doing and the time when we can obtain a full preservation plan for each structure. For a cost of \$16,480, the most recent proposal will identify solutions that will prevent the barns from further damage/deterioration. No action was taken.

Update on Stabilization Efforts: Due to the winter weather, no work has been done on the gabled barn in recent months. Mohn offered to meet with Blinks to discuss the work that remains to be done on the gabled barn. Discussion followed regarding the importance of following Secretary of Interior Standards during the rehabilitation process.

Documenting Stabilization Efforts: Mohn offered to take photos that will serve as documentation of the work.

Iowa Voices Project: Opatz reported that she has reached out to Bob Neymeyer and Pat Kinney of the Grout Museum to request information for participating in this program. Neymeyer and Kinney indicated they would be happy to work with us to produce video interviews about living/working on the Meyers farm with Steve McElmeel, Miriam Meyers Johnson, and the Bowers sisters. The videos would be done on site by Grout Museum staff members. There is no cost for participating, and a copy of the edited video and all the video footage will be given to LHPC upon completion. Opatz will reach out to McElmeel, Johnson, and the Bowers sisters to invite their participation.

7) LHPC 2023-24 Budget Request: LHPC submitted a preliminary budget request of \$2,381 for the new fiscal year. This request does not include the cost of preparing the preservation plans for the barns. If the Destination Iowa grant is awarded, this expense will be covered by that grant. If not awarded, we should submit to request for an increase in our budget to cover this cost.

8) Training: Free webinars are available through the NAPC. All members of LHPC should be receiving regular communication by email from the NAPC that includes information about these webinars.

9) Other Business: Mohn reported that Curt Blinks has moved a corn sheller and fanning mill to the hay barn in the Meyers Farmstead Historic District for safe storage. Opatz reported on the process the History Center uses for handling donations. Discussion followed regarding which organization should manage the donation process since LHPC is not a non-profit, tax-exempt organization. Options include the City, the new Lisbon Parks & Recreation Association, and the History Center Foundation.

Opatz reported that she invited David Baker who administers The 29<sup>th</sup> State Facebook page to feature the Gettysburg boulder memorial at the Lisbon Cemetery on his Facebook page. Baker plans to visit Lisbon when the weather is better to take some photos and gather information for his post. The 29<sup>th</sup> State page began as a page that featured ghost towns and unincorporated towns in Iowa and has evolved into a page that features communities of all sizes across the State and reaches over 15,000 viewers.

Opatz also noted that the Lincoln Highway Heritage Byway is following the LHPC Facebook page. This is notable since we are working to make a connection with this organization. Prairie Rivers of Iowa – Lincoln Highway Heritage Byway is conducting a survey assessing the preservation needs of historical properties listed on the National Register of Historic Places within five miles of the Lincoln Highway National Heritage Byway in Iowa. This is a project funded by the Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs and the Historical Society of Iowa, designed to assess the greatest preservation needs along the Lincoln Highway in Iowa. The long-term objective of the project is to improve the historical integrity of properties in the Lincoln Highway corridor by providing information about preservation resources to participating property owners. The research will be completed in 2024. The program director will send LHPC survey forms to complete for the Lisbon United Methodist Church, Stuckslager property, Meyers Farmstead Historic District, and the contributing buildings in the Main Street Historic District.

Catie and Wes Johnson, owners of the large Italianate home on Hoosier Road reached out with general questions about possible restrictions as they consider projects for their home. The home is outside the city limits and not listed on the National Register.

10) The meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Submitted: Ann Opatz, Secretary

Date Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Rebecca Hess, Chair