

LISBON HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

Minutes of Meeting

September 21, 2023

The meeting was called to order by Chair Rebecca Hess at 4:35 p.m. Present: Rebecca Hess, Marc Mohn, Amelia Kibbie, and Ann Opatz. Guest: Council Liaison John Bardsley.

Moved by Mohn, seconded by Kibbie, to approve the agenda. The motion passed on a voice vote of 4-0.

Moved by Mohn, seconded by Kibbie, to approve the minutes of the August meeting. The motion passed on a voice vote of 4-0.

Updates:

- a. Vacancy on LHPC: Kibbie will post an announcement of the vacancy on the community page of the Daily Pride, an on-line daily announcement bulletin distributed by the school.
- b. Lincoln Highway Interpretive Sign: The new interpretive sign was installed on September 7. Discussion followed regarding a dedication ceremony, tentatively set for Friday, October 6, at 5 p.m. Those to be invited include Joe Jennison (MV-L Community Development Group), Amanda Happel (former member of the Linn County HPC), Mount Vernon HPC, Linn County HPC, Lisbon History Center, Lisbon city officials, and Prairie Rivers of Iowa Lincoln Highway Heritage Byway. Kibbie will serve as emcee.
- c. Tour of Main Street Historic District During Sauerkraut Days: Kibbie reported that over 20 people attended the evening walking tour on August 16. Discussion followed regarding posting the tour script on the LHPC website, creating an audio version of the script, and using QR codes to access individual building information.
- d. Historic District Signs: Hess and Mohn took measurements of the banner hangers on the lamp posts for Rickard's use and also found inexpensive clips that can be used to hang the signs. The signs will be brown with cream lettering.
- e. Chew on This Event with History Center of Cedar Rapids: Opatz reported that at least 25 people have registered for this event, to be held Tuesday, September 26, at Gwen's.

History Center Building Rehabilitation Project:

- a. Review of Preservation Plan to Determine Next Steps: The group discussed items in the preservation plan that have not yet been completed (Life Safety and Preservation priorities only; excludes Optional items). The list includes:

*Repair metal drip edge at building cornice; paint entire metal building cornice.

*Repair and paint projecting sign; inspect and paint mounting hardware.

*Replace door at entrance to second floor stairway.

*Repair and paint wall mounted sign; ensure no gaps exist between sign and wall while allowing the concealed space behind the sign to drain and breathe.

*Paint panels and trim at west wall of entry alcove.

Other items noted but not included in the preservation plan include:

*Paint the electric conduit on the west wall.

*Paint the stucco along the top of the west wall.

In addition, Hess noted that a moisture repellent would not be necessary at this point, as per her conversation with David Arbogast.

Some of the items listed above may be considered and funded by the maintenance budget; other items could be included in a grant application from the Linn County HPC in the spring of 2024.

b. Time-Lapse Video: Kibbie reported that Maeve Krogmann will work on the edits to the video after volleyball season.

c. Final Report for HRDP Grant: Hess will work with City Administrator Siggins to prepare the final report; the second half of the grant money will be released upon submission of the report.

d. Opatz reported that the final report for the Linn County Historic Preservation Commission grant has been submitted.

Library Building Rehabilitation Project:

a. Review of Preservation Plan to Determine Next Steps: Only one item – replace missing corbel details below window sills --- has not yet been completed from the Life Safety and Preservation priority list

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Other items noted but not in the preservation plan include

*Inspect and repair roof. Address possible moisture issues that have resulted in efflorescence on the lower west wall.

*Apply moisture repellent, if needed

*Repair interior windows

*Replace failing bricks as needed

As with the History Center building, some of the items listed above may be considered and funded by the maintenance budget; other items could be included in a grant application from the Linn County HPC in the spring of 2024.

b. Final Report for Linn County HPC Grant: Opatz reported that the Friends of the Lisbon Public Library has submitted the final report to Linn County HPC.

Pleasant Grove Heritage Park:

- a. Official Name of Park: On the recommendation of the Tree Board and Parks & Rec Board, the Council approved naming the park “Pleasant Grove Heritage Park at the August 14 Council meeting.
- b. Silos & Smokestacks Partnership Announcement: A press release was published in the August 31 issue of The Sun announcing the partnership between SSNHA and the City; the announcement was also posted on the LHPC Facebook page and picked up statewide by the Lincoln Highway Heritage Byway.
- c. Silos & Smokestacks National Heritage Area (SSNHA) Memorandum of Understanding (MOU): LHPC is in the process of working on three of its responsibilities stated in the MOU (securing funding for the preservation plans for the barns, exploring means for handling and recording donations, and collaborating with the Grout Museum on the Iowa Voices program). Hess stressed the importance of developing a master site plan for the park, a responsibility that has been assigned (by city ordinance) to the Tree Board. Opatz requested that Parks & Rec Director Drayton Kamberling create a link on the Lisbon Parks and Recreation webpage; this has not been done to date. Since there is no City resolution or record of the story behind the name of the park in the Council minutes, it was suggested that the link on the Lisbon Parks and Recreation page include this information for the record.
- d. Pergola Constructed by Pond: Hess reported that a pergola has been installed on the east side of the pond in Pleasant Grove Heritage Park. Steve McElmeel and Robert Zahorik installed the pergola after receiving approval from City Administrator Siggins and Parks & Rec Director Kamberling. The pergola was originally erected in Lowe Park in Marion in memory of McElmeel’s wife. After being badly damaged by the derecho, repaired, and again damaged by a storm, the City of Marion donated the pergola materials to McElmeel for use in Pleasant Grove Heritage Park. The McElmeel family is funding the cost of this project.
- e. Representative to Attend Tree Board Meetings: Discussion centered around confusion regarding the City ordinance relating to the official name and responsibilities of the Tree Board. Bardsley will address these issues with City Administrator Siggins.

Meyers Farmstead Historic District:

- a. Linn County Economic and Community Development grant: Hess noted that LHPC was awarded a \$6,000 grant from the Linn County Economic and Community Development Program for the development of preservation plans for the barns. Requests for this year’s funding totaled more than \$428,000, and \$100,000 was awarded to 13 Linn County organizations. Funds must be spent this fiscal year.
- b. Other Grant Opportunities: We still need \$6,000 in order to fund the development of preservation plans for the barns. We had planned to apply for a CLG Planning Grant through the State, but that grant has not yet been announced due to the reorganization of the State government. Opatz talked with Silos & Smokestacks, and the development of preservation plans is not within the scope of their grant program. Hess suggested we meet with City Administrator Siggins to see if the unspent insurance money (approximately \$22,000) designated for the

stabilization of the barns could be used for this purpose. John Bardsley will facilitate a meeting with Siggins.

c. Letter to Linn County Board of Supervisors: Hess and Opatz are working on a letter to be sent to the three Linn County Supervisors thanking them for the support of our preservation projects and inviting them to visit Pleasant Grove Heritage Park.

d. Consultation with State Historic Preservation Office re construction of walking paths within the Meyers Farmstead Historic District: Hess will pursue with the SHPO.

e. Update on Stabilization Efforts: Bardsley reported that City Administrator Siggins intends to meet with Curt Blinks to discuss repairs to the corn crib/hog house. Opatz asked that LHPC be involved in that meeting since LHPC is responsible for consulting with the City on historic properties and districts.

f. Iowa Voices Project: Opatz is working with Miriam Johnston on organizing a history of the Meyers family/farmstead to be used for her Iowa Voices interview, which will likely take place in the spring of 2024.

g. Handling and Recording Donated Items: Opatz has reached out to several organizations seeking examples of policies and procedures relating to museum collections management. Examples have been posted in a folder titled "Museum Collections Management" in LHPC Google Drive. She also noted that there is State of Iowa legislation relating to this that can be accessed at this link: <https://law.justia.com/codes/iowa/2011/titlevii/subtitle7/chapter305b/>

REAP Assembly in Atkins: With the reorganization of State government, the Iowa Economic Development Authority is sponsoring REAP workshops across the State to discuss changes, share information about personnel and grant opportunities, and solicit feedback from attendees on their needs. Mohn and Opatz will attend the Region 10 workshop to be held on October 25 in Atkins. Noting the importance of representation at this meeting, it was suggested that Robert Zahorik and Frances Owens of the Tree Board and City Administrator Siggins and Parks & Rec Director Kamberling attend.

Training: Mohn, Hess, and Opatz participated in various sessions of the NAPC Summer Short Course.

Volunteer Hours: Commissioners submitted their volunteer hours for the month of August.

Other Business: Opatz reported that Miriam and Dean Johnston and their children will be visiting Lisbon on September 28, 29, and 30. Opatz has arranged for a small group of people to meet with them while they are here.

The next meeting will be held Thursday, October 19.

The meeting adjourned at 6:36 p.m.

Submitted: Ann Opatz, Secretary

Date Approved: _____

Signed: _____
Rebecca Hess, Chair