

## **LISBON HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION**

### **Minutes of Meeting**

**July 20, 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 Hess, seconded by Kibbie, to approve the agenda. The motion passed on a voice vote of 4-0.

Moved by Mohn, seconded by Hess, to approve the minutes of the June 15 meeting. The motion passed on a voice vote of 4-0.

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

#### Updates:

Vacancy on LHPC: One person expressed more information on the vacancy after reading the post on the LHPC Facebook page. Hess responded to the inquiry by providing information about Certified Local Governments, the roles and responsibilities of historic preservation commissions, and the days/times of our regular meetings.

Lincoln Highway Interpretive Sign: Installation of the sign is still expected to be done this summer.

Historic District Signs: Hess will obtain measurements of the banner hangers on the lamp posts for Rickard's use.

Tour of Main Street Historic District: Kibbie reported that the walking tour will take place Wednesday, August 16, at 7:00 p.m. She has coordinated this event with the Sauerkraut Days Committee, and an event will be created on Facebook to promote the tour. Flyers will be posted around town (Post Office, Hills Bank, Library, City Hall, History Center, Meyers Meadow, Casey's, etc.).

Chew on This Event with History Center of Cedar Rapids: Opatz has provided the Cedar Rapids History Center with photos needed for the slideshow and will confirm details in writing with Gwen's Restaurant. Once the Cedar Rapids History Center has announced the event, Opatz will share the announcement on Facebook.

Photo-Op Cutout: Hess will try to have the cutout ready for Sauerkraut Days.

Google Drive: Opatz and Mohn will work together to restore LHPC files in Google Drive.

#### Discussion and Possible Action on Individual Applications for Downtown Reinvestment Grant Program:

505 Walnut , LLC – 117 East Main Street (Scott Selzer) – replacement of existing windows on upper and lower levels of storefront. No action required since the windows being replaced are

not original to the building; however, LHPC has no concerns about the nature of the work proposed and noted that the new windows will add to the value and appearance of the building.

Indulgence Salon – 111 East Main Street (Laura Baxa) – install new joists to repair sagging basement wall on the south side of the building, remove deteriorated concrete and plywood installed when basement windows were removed years ago and replace with new concrete, and tuckpointing of entire basement area. Moved by Hess, seconded by Opatz, to recommend the project for funding. The motion passed on a voice vote of 4-0.

D & D Auto Body – 133 East Main (Daniel and David Albright) – tuckpointing on front façade, clay block repair in rear, and acid wash of repaired areas. Moved by Opatz, seconded by Mohn, to recommend the project for funding. The motion passed on a voice vote of 4-0.

Canton Studio -- 122 East Main Street (Rebecca Hess and Randy Rausch: exterior painting, window replacement, and custom trim for storefront windows. Moved by Opatz, seconded by Mohn, to approve recommend the project for funding. The motion passed on a voice vote of 3-0-1 with Hess abstaining.

#### History Center Building Rehabilitation Project:

Opatz reported that the final report for the Linn County Historic Preservation Commission grant of \$5,000 will be submitted in the coming week. She also presented a summary of the History Center rehabilitation project expenses, noting that about 37% of the funding for Phase 1 and Phase 2 projects came from grants. Discussion followed regarding the dissemination of the time-lapse video of the masonry rehabilitation project. Kibbie will discuss making minor changes to the video with Maeve Krogmann after the start of the new school year. Commissioners were asked to help compile a list of edits to be made.

Library Building Rehabilitation Project: Hess reported a concern about the condition of the brick on the west wall of the library building at the June meeting, and expressed the need to monitor the condition in the coming months. She noted that replacing deteriorating bricks as they fail will likely be ongoing and that consideration should be given to sealing the wall. Hess will talk to Public Works Director Travis Bagby about the condition of the roof.

#### Pleasant Grove Heritage Park:

Silos & Smokestacks National Heritage Area (SSNHA) Memorandum of Understanding: Opatz reported that the City approved the Memorandum of Understanding at its June 26 meeting. Once both parties have signed the agreement, a press release will be issued. Kibbie and Opatz will work on a press release in consultation with Candy Streed at SSNHA.

Official Name of Park: Opatz reported that she spoke with City Administrator Siggins and Parks & Recreation Director Drayton Kamberling about the process to be followed to officially name Pleasant Grove Heritage Park. The Park & Recreation Board and the Tree Board will hold a joint meeting to discuss the official name and present a recommendation to the City Council for official action at an upcoming meeting.

Discussion and Possible Action on Letter of Support to DNR for Prairie Restoration for Tree Board Grant: Moved by Hess, seconded by Kibbie, to approve providing a letter of support for

the Tree Board's application for a grant to restore approximately 10 acres of prairie at Pleasant Grove Heritage Area. No match is required. The motion passed on a voice vote of 4-0.

Meyers Farmstead Historic District:

Discussion and Possible Action on Applying for Linn County Economic and Community Development grant: Hess and Opatz have been working on the grant application, which was just recently announced, with a due date of July 28. Funds are being requested for the cost of preservation plans for the three agricultural structures in the Meyers Farmstead Historic District. If funding is not awarded, application for a CLG Planning Grant will be made in the fall.

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

Update on Stabilization Efforts: Mohn reported that he visited with Curt Blinks about his schedule for completing the stabilization of the barns. It was suggested that the City Administrator meet with Blinks to talk through the work that remains to be done.

Documenting Stabilization Efforts: Mohn reported that he will take photos when Blinks returns to work on the barns.

Documenting Stabilization Efforts: Mohn continues to keep an eye on activity at the farmstead and in the park, and will upload photos to Google Drive on a regular basis.

Iowa Voices Project: Opatz reported that Miriam and Dean Johnston, descendants of the Meyers family, visited Lisbon on July 6 to see the Meyers Farmstead Historic District and Pleasant Grove Heritage Park, and to discuss the Iowa Voices Project. Opatz reported that Miriam and Dean were very supportive and enthusiastic about the development of the farmstead district and heritage park. Miriam's interview for the Iowa Voices Project will take place in the fall.

Handling and Recording Donated Items: This item will require additional conversations with City Hall and the Lisbon History Center Board. Opatz will also ask Candy Streed of SSNHA for her advice on how other organizations handle and record donated items.

Discussion and Possible Action on Disposition of Items Found in Pleasant Grove Heritage Park During Construction work: Mohn noted that several items were discovered buried under ground during the water project along Market Street. Those items included broken cement fence posts, old building hinge and roller track parts, and old wheel axles. He will move what he can to the area next to the corn crib/hog house. Items we wish to save for possible future use should eventually be stored in the hay barn along with other items that are already stored there.

Training: Mohn, Kibbie, and Opatz participated in the NAPC-sponsored webinar "Best Practices for an Effective Local Preservation Commission (Mohn on June 29; Kibbie and Opatz on July 10).

Other Business: Opatz shared comments made about LHPC by Candy Streed of the Silos & Smokestacks National Heritage Area at a recent Lisbon History Center meeting. Citing her recent experience as a reviewer of HRDP grants, Streed was very complimentary of the work undertaken by LHPC, noting that we have a reputation for doing solid research, presenting good

projects, and seeing those project through successfully.

Opatz also shared information about the reorganization of State government, noting that the Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs no longer exists and that offices associated with that department have been moved to other departments as part of the reorganization. The State Historical Society of Iowa now falls under the Department of Administrative Services, and the State Historic Preservation Office now reports to the Iowa Economic Development Authority.

The next meeting will be held Thursday, August 10.

The meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Submitted: Ann Opatz, Secretary

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

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