

LISBON HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

Minutes of Meeting

June 15, 2023

The meeting was called to order by Chair Rebecca Hess at 4:30 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 Kibbie, seconded by Mohn, to approve the minutes of the May 18 meeting. The motion passed on a voice vote of 4-0.

Updates:

Vacancy on LHPC: One position remains open on the LHPC. The vacancy will be posted on the LHPC Facebook page as the Commission seeks to fill the position.

Lincoln Highway Interpretive Sign: Hess reported that she recently met with Public Works Director Travis Bagby, Linn County HPC representative Steve Ciha, and a representative of CR Signs to discuss placement of the interpretive sign in Lincoln Square. A sign permit has been approved by the City, and the new sign is expected to be installed in July. Discussion followed regarding a formal unveiling of the new sign. Linn County HPC member Amanda Happel will be invited to this event to recognize her leadership in this project.

Historic District Signs: Hess received approval from the City to hang the signs on the bottom rod that holds the banners on the lamp posts in the Main Street Historic District. Hess will order the signs and obtain an invoice prior to June 30 in order that this expense will be charged to the FY23 budget.

Tour of Main Street Historic District: The walking tour will take place the Wednesday prior to Sauerkraut Days. Kibbie will coordinate with Jerry Dietsch, Chair of the Sauerkraut Days Committee, so that this event can be included on the Sauerkraut Days schedule.

Library Building Rehabilitation Project: The fire escape has been painted, and work has begun on the windows. It is expected that the work will be complete by June 30.

Hess noted that the west wall of the library building is in need of sealing. A white powdery substance called efflorescence was visible in areas of the lower west wall in early May. Efflorescence is a mineral deposit that forms on brick, concrete, and stone surfaces. Further investigation is needed to find the cause. Hess discussed the issue with consultant David Arbogast and Randy Williams of R & W Restoration to confirm the cause and discuss treatment. Williams sprayed the affected areas and removed the efflorescence build-up by washing the treated areas.

Chew on This Event with History Center of Cedar Rapids: September 26th has been confirmed as the date of this event, to be sponsored and facilitated by the History Center of Cedar Rapids. Opatz has provided additional photos for the slideshow presentation, and this event will be

posted on the LHPC Facebook page after the History Center of Cedar Rapids makes its public announcement of the tour.

Silos & Smokestacks National Heritage Area (SSNHA): Opatz reported that Candy Streed of SSNHA will be visiting Lisbon on Monday, June 19, to discuss the development of Pleasant Grove Heritage Park and to begin a conversation with the Lisbon History Center about the History Center possibly pursuing Emerging Site Status.

Photo-Op Cutout: This project will be completed this summer in advance of Sauerkraut Days.

Google Drive: Opatz reported that she has been working to restore missing folders and documents. Folders are color-coded in yellow to show they have been updated.

History Center Building Rehabilitation Project:

Hess reported that she conducted a final walk-through with Randy Williams of R & W Restoration, followed by a final inspection with City Administrator Siggins on June 5. The City Administrator has contacted R & W Restoration to discuss questions which arose during the final inspection, including sealing of the north end of the parapet wall, a few bricks that appear damaged, and a small hole at the foundation/sidewalk. R & W replaced an additional 100-200 bricks, but charged the City for only 50 since not as much tuckpointing as originally planned was needed. It was noted that the power mast and top part of the wall need painting. Sealing the wall will be considered at a later date.

Kibbie and Hess reported that the time-lapse video of the masonry rehabilitation project is complete and uploaded to Google Drive. Opatz will send a thank-you note to Maeve Krogman for her work on this project.

Moved by Mohn, seconded by Hess, to pay RC Tech \$330 (\$345 less \$15 refund for power cord) for the final camera footage for the time-lapse video. The motion passed on a voice vote of 4-0.

Moved by Hess, seconded by Mohn, to recommend the City pay the final installment of \$22,700 to R & W Restoration. The motion passed on a voice vote of 4-0.

Meyers Farmstead Historic District:

Funding for Preservation Plans for the Barns/Communication with Council re intent to apply for grants: LHPC plans to work with the Lisbon History Center Foundation to apply for a grant through the Linn County Economic and Community Development Program; however, that grant competition has not yet been announced for FY24.

Walking Path in Meyers Farmstead Historic District: As planning continues on the development of Pleasant Grove Heritage Park, consideration should be given to walkways/pathways that connect the park with the Meyers Farmstead Historic District. Hess will contact the State Historic Preservation Office to seek advice on this matter.

Update on Stabilization Efforts: Mohn reported that he will visit with Curt Blinks about his intent for completing the stabilization of the barns.

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

Iowa Voices Project: Opatz reported that Bob Neymeyer of the Grout Museum will be in Lisbon on June 21 to shoot video and interview Steve McElmeel for the Iowa Voices Project. Opatz will coordinate with City Hall and others. Kibbie offered to write the introductory remarks for the video.

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 to handle and record donated items.

Training: Hess encouraged commissioners to register and participate in NAPC-sponsored webinars, free with our organization membership.

John Bardsley will speak with City Administrator Siggins to ensure that mowing of the prairie in Pleasant Grove Heritage Park does not occur this year.

Other Business:

The next meeting will be held Thursday, August 10.

The meeting adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

Submitted: Ann Opatz, Secretary

Date Approved: _____

Signed: _____
Rebecca Hess, Chair