

LISBON HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

Minutes of Meeting

March 23, 2023

1) The meeting was called to order by Chair Rebecca Hess at 4:32 p.m. Present: Rebecca Hess, Marc Mohn, and Ann Opatz. Absent: Amelia Kibbie. 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 February meeting. The motion passed on a voice vote of 3-0.

4) Updates

Vacancy on LHPC: One position remains open on the LHPC. The group considered offering a Zoom option for the next meeting in order to make it easier for two prospective new members to participate.

Destination Iowa Grant: Hess reported that Parks & Rec Director Kamberling received word from the Iowa Economic Development Authority that Lisbon's application was not awarded funding. The Tree/Nature Park Board and Parks and Rec Board have been encouraged to pursue partnerships and grant funding for various components to keep the project moving.

Lincoln Highway Interpretive Sign: Hess reported that the new sign has been ordered and will be installed in Lincoln Park in the coming months.

Tour of Main Street Historic District: Kibbie will report on this at the April meeting.

Downtown Reinvestment Grant Program: Hess reported that she provided the City with new supplemental documents showing appropriate treatments for rehabilitation of commercial historic buildings. These documents will be appended to the Downtown Reinvestment Grant Program guidelines.

Silos & Smokestacks Collaboration: Opatz reported that Candy Streed of Silos & Smokestacks will be visiting Lisbon in April 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.

Library Building Rehabilitation Project: Hess will confirm with the Friends of the Lisbon Public Library that the final two projects are still on schedule for this spring.

Chew on This Event with History Center of Cedar Rapids: Opatz reported that she will talk to Gwen Drahos when she returns from wintering in the South to ask if she would be willing to open her restaurant for this event, to be held either May 23 or June 27.

Google Drive Issues: Hess has received a proposal from Market Street Technologies for a training session on organizing, storing, and maintaining Google Drive content. Hess moved, Opatz seconded, to accept the proposal from Market Street Technologies for a Google Drive workshop to be held via Zoom for \$175. The motion passed on a voice vote of 3-0.

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

Historic District Street Sign Toppers: Given the cost (\$310/each) quoted by Rickard Sign & Design for historic district street signs, Hess will look at other options to present at the April meeting.

5) History Center Building Rehabilitation Project

Summary of March 13 City Council Discussion Relating to Paint Abatement and Masonry Rehabilitation: Hess, Opatz, and Mohn attended the March 13 Council meeting to discuss options for moving forward with the west wall project. Following lengthy discussion, the Council unanimously (with Council member Smith absent) voted to accept the estimate of \$32,500 from R & W Restoration for removing the remaining paint and \$54,300 from R & W Restoration for masonry rehabilitation. Work on the project will begin in April, as weather permits. The group thanked John Bardsley for his support of our efforts to rehabilitate the building.

Discussion followed regarding the importance of following the terms of the HRDP agreement between the City and the Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs. LHPC will send City Administrator Siggins an email to remind him to review the agreement and communicate with Cheryl Peterson, the staff project manager at the State Historic Preservation Office assigned to our project.

Discussion and Possible Action on Purchase of a Time Lapse Video Camera: Discussion on the purchase of a time lapse video camera was tabled. Options for possible reassessment of the oversight of videotaping the west wall project will be pursued.

6) Meyers Farmstead Historic District

Discussion and Possible Action on Proposal from OPN Architects for Preservation Plans for Structures in Meyers Farmstead Historic District: Discussion centered around the two proposals received from OPN. The first proposal, in the amount of \$24,150 is more comprehensive in scope. The second proposal, in the amount of \$16,480, is scaled down and does not include a cost analysis. Hess and Opatz will review the two proposals and meet with City Administrator Siggins to determine the best course for moving forward, which may include applying for grants.

Update on Stabilization Efforts: Nothing to report.

Documenting Stabilization Efforts: Nothing to report.

Iowa Voices Project: Opatz reported that Steve McElmeel and Miriam Johnston have agreed to participate in the Iowa Voices oral history project. Bob Neymeyer of the Grout Museum will

conduct the interviews this spring. This project ties directly to the goals outlined in the Memorandum of Understanding with the Silos & Smokestacks National Heritage Area.

Handling and Recording Donated Items: The Commission discussed the importance of handling and recording items donated for the Meyers Farmstead Historic District. The Commission will submit a formal request to the Lisbon History Center Foundation requesting that all donations funnel through their organization.

7) LHPC 2023-24 Budget Request: The Destination Iowa grant included a request for funding for preservation plans for the barns in the Meyers Farmstead Historic District. Since funding was not awarded, LHPC will work with City Administrator Siggins to discuss options for funding this project.

8) Other Business:

The Stuckslager property was recently condemned by Linn County after failing to meet rental inspection standards. Owner Don Crawford informed Opatz that he is working to address the issues noted by the County.

Hess reported that she will be working with former Commissioner Marianne Zahorik to learn how to update and maintain the LHPC website.

Hess reported that, as owner of a building in the Lisbon Main Street Historic District, she has received a survey form from Prairie Rivers of Iowa as it works to assess 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. The needs assessment survey project is funded by the Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs and the State Historical Society of Iowa. Prairie Rivers managed cultural tourism on the Lincoln Highway Heritage Byway on behalf of the Iowa Department of Transportation. Opatz will check in with Shellie Orngard of the Lincoln Highway Heritage Byway to see if any assistance is needed to encourage participation in the survey.

9) The meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

Submitted: Ann Opatz, Secretary

Date Approved: _____

Signed: _____
Rebecca Hess, Chair