

LISBON HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

Minutes of Meeting

May 18, 2023

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Marc Mohn at 4:36 p.m. Present: Marc Mohn, Amelia Kibbie, and Ann Opatz. Absent: Rebecca Hess. Guest: Council Liaison John Bardsley.

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

Moved by Mohn, seconded by Kibbie, to approve the minutes of the April meeting and May 5 special meeting. The motion passed on a voice vote of 3-0.

Opatz requested reimbursement for printer cartridges for her personal printer for LHPC work. Moved by Mohn, seconded by Kibbie, to approve the reimbursement of \$35.19. The motion passed on a voice vote of 2-0, with Opatz abstaining.

Historic District Signs: Hess received a preliminary estimate of \$125/sign for historic district signs to be hung on the lamp posts in the Main Street Historic District. Hess is working with Rickard Sign & Design on a lighter-weight sign, and will seek approval from the City for placing the signs on the lamp posts prior to placing the order. Moved by Opatz, seconded by Mohn, to approve funding within this range for the purchase of the historic district signs from the FY23 LHPC budget. The motion passed on a voice vote of 3-0.

Updates:

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

Lincoln Highway Interpretive Sign: The new interpretive sign is being printed and is expected to be installed in Lincoln Park soon.

National Historic Preservation Month: Kibbie reported that she conducted a walking tour of the Main Street Historic District for the three third grade classes (61 students) on May 15 and 16. She will submit a press release and photo to The Sun covering the event. Kibbie noted that she will continue to work on various versions of the walking tour script, with different audiences in mind.

Tour of Main Street Historic District: Kibbie is planning to offer a public tour of the Main Street Historic District this summer. Discussion followed regarding possible dates, with the Wednesday prior to Sauerkraut Days suggested as the best option. Kibbie will coordinate with Jerry Dietsch, Chair of the Sauerkraut Days Committee, and will request that the tour be included on the Sauerkraut Days schedule. Opatz will ask the History Center Board about using their facility for refreshments after the tour and will ask Hill Bank about providing refreshments. Kibbie suggested that we notify building owners along the tour route of the tour date/time and request that some buildings be open during the tour. The photo-op cutout will be used for this event.

Downtown Reinvestment Grant Program: Applications for FY24 will open July 1.

Library Building Rehabilitation Project: David Bennett intends to complete the two remaining projects in Phase II of the Preservation Plan during the month of May.

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 will provide additional photos for the slideshow presentation.

Silos & Smokestacks National Heritage Area (SSNHA): Opatz reported that LHPC, the Tree Board, and the Parks & Rec Board have approved the Memorandum of Understanding for Emerging Site Status. Opatz met with the History Center Board on May 15 to discuss the SSNHA partnership with Pleasant Grove Heritage Park, and will request the Memorandum of Understanding be included on the agenda for the June meeting for formal action. Candy Streed, Director of Partnerships for SSNHA, will attend the June History Center Board meeting to discuss the Memorandum of Understanding and to encourage the History Center Board to consider the History Center becoming a separate Emerging Site.

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

Prairie Rivers of Iowa Lincoln Highway Heritage Byway Survey: Prairie Rivers reported that only four surveys have been returned to date. Discussion followed regarding how LHPC might encourage building owners to complete the survey.

History Center Building Rehabilitation Project:

Opatz reported that R & W Restoration has been working on the building for nearly a month, with work expected to wrap up in a matter of days.

Kibbie reported that Lisbon INC student Maeve Krogman will be producing the time-lapse video of the masonry rehabilitation project.

Moved by Opatz, seconded by Mohn, to recommend the City pay the third installment (75% completion) of \$13,575 to R & W Restoration. The motion passed on a voice vote of 3-0.

Moved by Opatz, seconded by Mohn to pay RC Tech invoices in the amount of \$294.00 for the camera and installation, \$95.00 for the monthly camera rental and WIFI service, and \$230.00 for the technical labor to download video/pictures on April 28 and May 4. The motion passed on a voice vote of 3-0.

Meyers Farmstead Historic District:

Funding for Preservation Plans for the Barns/Communication with Council re intent to apply for grants: Opatz reported that LHPC plans to apply for a Linn County Economic and Community Development grant in June to cover the entire cost (no match required) of the proposal from OPN for the preparation of preservation plans for the barns. The application window is not yet open. If funding is not awarded, LHPC will pursue funding through a CLG Planning Grant from the SHPO. A 2:1 match is required for CLG grants.

Update on Stabilization Efforts: Mohn reported that Blinks is currently working on storm-related projects at other sites, and will inquire about Blinks' schedule for finishing stabilization work on the gabled barn and the corn crib.

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

Iowa Voices Project: Opatz reported that this project is still on schedule to be done when the weather is warmer.

Handling and Recording Donated Items: Opatz met with the History Center Board on May 15 to discuss LHPC's request to use the History Center's system for handing donations to the Meyers Farmstead Historic District. The History Center Board agreed to work with LHPC on smaller donations but suggested LHPC work with the City to determine how to handle large donations in the event the donated items would need to be insured.

Other Business: Kibble reported that the Lester Buresh Center in Mount Vernon will be offering summer daytime adult programs in the summer of 2024. She is considering a session on Lisbon history with a focus on the Main Street Historic District.

The meeting adjourned at 5:50 p.m.

Submitted: Ann Opatz, Secretary

Date Approved: _____

Signed: _____
Marc Mohn, Vice Chair