



LINN COUNTY HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
935 Second Street SW • Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52404 • 319-892-5138

Minutes
May 19th, 2021

Members Present

Maura Pilcher, Chair
Michael LeClere, Vice-Chair
Amanda Happel
Todd McNall
Steve Ciha
Hilary Copeland-Marvin

Absent

Richard Thomas
Barb Westercamp

Guests

Steve Hanken

Staff Present

Stephanie Lientz, Staff Liaison
Sue Bennett, Recording Secretary

Special Statement: in accordance with Iowa Code Chapter 21.8, and to comply with current local Public Health guidelines limiting public gatherings, this meeting was held electronically. Information on how to access this meeting was provided on the meeting agenda, posted on our website.

Call to Order

Chair Maura Pilcher called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.

Public Comment

None



Approval of Minutes

Motion by Happel, second by Copeland-Marvin, those present voting aye, to approve the minutes of May 5, 2021.

Announcements/Communication

Guest Steve Hanken spoke, requesting assistance from the Historical Preservation Commission to get Hopewell Cemetery listed in the National Park Service Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Program. Mr. Hanken has located several conductors who may be buried in that cemetery. He is not receiving a response from the National Network to Freedom federal office in Nebraska, and requested that the HPC assist him. The HPC discussed this, and all agreed that this was a valid and worthwhile project. Pilcher suggested that a letter of support from the African American History Museum might carry more weight than one from the HPC. Pilcher offered to contact LaNisha Cassell, the Executive Director of the African-American Museum of Iowa for Mr. Hanken. Mr. Hankel agreed and thanked.

Lientz informed the Commission that the Linn County Board of Supervisors is voting Monday, May 24, 2021 with regard to the mask mandate, and she stated we may be meeting in person in June, depending on what is discussed.

Lientz reminded the Commission that registration is still open for the Virtual Preserve Iowa Summit, which will be held June 3, 2021 through June 5, 2021.

Lientz noted that the nomination for Wickiup Hill for the National Register of Historic Places has been completed. Tallgrass will be presenting on the nomination at the State Nomination Review Committee Meeting on June 11, 2021.

Lientz verified members of the Commission have all received a copy of the invoice from CR Signs & Lighting for the replacement of the Lincoln Highway kiosks in Cleveland Park in Cedar Rapids and Thomas Park in Marion. Together, the kiosks will total \$11,306.00

Budget

The current budget is \$13, 395.50.

New Business

Pilcher reminded the Commission that at the June meeting the FY 2022 Work Plan will be discussed at the next meeting, and that if Commission members want to add projects they can add them themselves under the FY22 tab or contact her and she will add them.

FY 2021 Work Plan

The FY21 Work Plan was discussed.

Some of the items discussed included:

- the demolition of historic structures
- the rural preservation initiative
- Wickiup Hill
- picking the next project (Sugar Grove/Witwer/Williams)

Discussion of the FY22 Grant Process.

It was noted that we left the zero funding recommendations out of the spreadsheet, although those applicants who did not receive funding were notified of that. Pilcher stated that we normally leave the zero grants off the spreadsheet, but we do inform the Board of all applications.

Over the next several months, we will be reviewing the grant application process. HPC members should be thinking on any changes or improvements you would like to make.

Update on Historic Preservation Month videos: Pilcher stated that Happel & Copeland-Marvin did a great job on the videos, and we are hoping to link those videos on the HPC website.

As the timing of payments is tight with the Lincoln Kiosk project, McNall motioned to approve the CR Signs invoice, at the discretion of the Lincoln Kiosk subcommittee. The group reiterated the need to have seen significant work done on the project before approving the invoice. Second by Happel. All present voting aye. Motion carried.

Ciha asked if the HPC can do something special for the retirement of Dick Thomas. Pilcher stated that she has looked into that and he has been given every special award available, but that it is possible we could "designate a day." Lientz will put this item on a future agenda for discussion.

Happel volunteered to take over Soukup's role as Secretary. Lientz will put the election of officers on the June agenda.

Next Meeting

June 16th, 2021

Adjournment

Motion by Happel, second by Ciha, those present voting aye, to adjourn the HPC meeting at 5:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Sue Bennett, Recording Secretary

Approved,



Maura Pilcher, Chair