

WINNESHIEK COUNTY HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

Steven Johnson, Chairperson
David Stanley, Secretary
Elizabeth Lorentzen, Treasurer

Commissioners: Kevin Lee
Ferneva Brimacomb
Roger Bergan
Mike Meyer
Janelle Pavlovec

Minutes of the Winneshiek County Historic Preservation Commission

Meeting

February 11, 2011

8:30 P.M.

Vesterheim Amdal-Odland Heritage Center

Present: Ferneva Brimacomb, Dave Stanley, Elizabeth Lorentzen, Steve Johnson, Janelle Pavlovec, Julia Rude, and Mike Meyer. Guests included Donna Eberling, Kryl Henderson, Julie Fisher, and Deborah Bishop.

Steve opened the meeting by discussing the minutes from the January meeting. Ferneva moved to approve the minutes and Elizabeth seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Elizabeth presented the treasurer's report. She noted that the best interest she has been able to find is 1.5% for money market funds at Farmers and Merchants Savings Bank. She opened an account there for \$17,000 on January 21, 2011. The Decorah Bank and Trust account had \$19,586.76 in it.

Dave presented the CLG annual report and the general consensus was that it would work and no changes were suggested. Dave said he would drop it off at the Auditor's office for Les Askelson to sign and they would send it on to the State Historical Society. Dave also said that he had spoke with David Anderson and he had made all the changes to the Calmar Depot nomination that was suggested by the state review board, and resubmitted the nomination.

Elizabeth discussed our publications noting that the Vera Harris book was still selling well with 428 of the 1,000 printed having sold to date. She was going to distribute four books to Ferneva for the Winneshiek County Historical Society meeting. Janelle suggested we donate one book, some booklets, and a calendar for the silent auction that would benefit the Laura Wilder Museum in Burr Oak. Everyone agreed that this would be appropriate. Elizabeth mentioned that the Porter House Museum donated 12 photographs and Vesterheim Museum donated 19 photographs for the Vera Harris book. Elizabeth explained that the standard fee for situations of this nature would be \$25 per photo and suggested that since the book has been selling well we should pay both the

museums for the photographs. Ferneva moved to pay the museums and Dave seconded the motion. Janelle objected since both organizations were non-profit. The motion was passed 6-1 with Janelle voting nay.

Dave suggested taking on a project that would result in filling out Iowa Site Inventory forms for all of the cemeteries in Winneshiek County. He explained that the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) is now requiring that all archeological contractors doing Cultural Resource Management (CRM) projects fill out these forms if a cemetery is positioned within 100 meters of project areas that are being surveyed. The objective is to enter all cemeteries into a standardized data base. Dave distributed a blank copy of the form and one that had been completed. He thought this would be good project for the Historic Preservation Commission. Donna Eberling noted that something of that nature should be the responsibility of the Winneshiek County Pioneer Cemetery Commission of which she is a member, not the Winneshiek County Historic Preservation Commission. She indicated that there are specific niches or responsibilities for each Commission. Dave thought that would be fine and encouraged the Winneshiek County Pioneer Cemetery Commission to undertake this project. Ferneva pointed out that there is extensive information in the archives maintained by the Winneshiek County Historical Society. Donna said that the Pioneer Cemetery Commission would be meeting Tuesday evening (February 15th) and would address this issue at that time. It was decided to table the topic until the Pioneer Cemetery Commission has discussed it.

Dave then brought up developing a history of Freeport and identifying existing historic properties in line with what Kevin suggested at a previous meeting. Dave distributed a modern aerial photograph and one from the 1930s plus a lidar view of the topography. There was interest on the part of the Commission to undertake something of this nature but it was decided to table the issue and see what the Pioneer Cemetery Commission decides regarding the Iowa Site Inventory forms. It was also decided that we should have some input from Kevin regarding the Freeport project and he was not able to attend the meeting.

Steve suggested the Commission sponsoring a workshop that would include other Historic Preservation Commissions in the County and neighboring counties. The focus of the workshop would be on projects that individual Preservation Commissions have completed. Steve thought a half day workshop would be adequate. Elizabeth though a bus tour of the houses presented in the Vera Harris book would be appropriate. Everyone thought the workshop and the bus tour would be a good idea.

Julie Fisher representing the Caretaker's House Coalition read a prepared statement requesting that the Historic Preservation Commission appoint members of the Coalition as an ad hoc committee representing the HPC on behalf of preserving the caretaker's house in place. Included in this request was the HPC would ask that the Board of Supervisors declare their contract with the Oneota Historic Future Alliance (OHFA) null and void. The contract between the Supervisors and OHFA clearly states the caretaker's house must be removed to another location or be demolished by April 30th 2011.

Deborah Bishop, also representing the Caretaker's House Coalition presented some generalized ideas regarding reuse of the structure in place and outlined the local community support for preserving the structure in place.

Dave asked whether or not there was a business plan outlining project costs, sources of income or funding identified, and a cash flow model. Deborah answered that there was not. Steve questioned whether or not it was even possible for the Commission to do what was suggested since members of the Commission are appointed by the Board of Supervisors. Elizabeth said she would contact the County Attorney and inquire if indeed that was possible. There seemed to be little support amongst the Commission in regard to the Coalition's request. Dave wondered where OFHA stood with this and said he would contact members of that group and see if he could attend their next meeting. Steve noted that two Commission members, Roger and Kevin, were not in attendance and something of this nature should not be acted on without all members of the Commission present.

Dave made a motion to send a letter of support for preserving the caretaker's house to the Board of Supervisors if a detailed preservation plan is prepared. Steve seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 10:00 A.M. Next meeting is scheduled on March 12th at the Vesterheim Amdal-Odland Heritage Center