

## WINNESHIEK COUNTY HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

**Steven Johnson, Chairperson**  
**David Stanley, Co-Secretary**  
**Elizabeth Lorentzen, Treasurer**  
**LaVonne Sharp**

**Roger Bergan**  
**Janelle Pavlovec**  
**Cathy McLain**  
**Lonnie Pierce**  
**Terri Mozzone**

### **Minutes of the Winneshiek County Historic Preservation Commission February 9, 8:30 A.M. at the Vesterheim Amdal-Odland Heritage Center.**

Present: Dave Stanley, Elizabeth Lorentzen, Steve Johnson, Lonnie Pierce, Janelle Pavlovec, Cathy McClain, Terri Mozzoni, Dennis Karlsbrotten (liaison with the Board of Supervisors).

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

Elizabeth presented the treasurer's report. Cathy moved to approve the report and Cathy seconded the motion. It was approved unanimously.

The next topic was the annual report. Dave indicated that it was nearly complete and he would distribute it late next week or the following week, noting the submittal date was no later than February 28<sup>th</sup>. Dave outlined some of the achievements we had in 2012, noting they would be in the report.

The discussion turned to the public hearing the Commission sponsored on January 28<sup>th</sup>. Dennis noted that his belief was that the County could not afford to preserve or mothball the building without firm plan in regard to its reuse.

Cathy talked about the Smith Building being next on the chopping block and suggested we get ahead of the action this time and organize those groups who are interested in protecting that building.

Dave noted the cautionary remark in the CLG operating manual regarding museum's and long term stewardship of buildings. He followed that remark by noting there is a need for a County curation facility.

Steve discussed having our meetings at different locations again like we did last year once the weather warmed up a bit. He suggested we consider something at the Inwood Ballroom in Spillville. The general consensus was that this is a good idea and we should continue to hold meetings around the County when possible. Steve brought up the Rural Schoolhouse conference in October and said that Paul Hexom wondered if the Commission would be willing to contribute \$112 to help with the brochure costs. Dave moved to provide the funds and Lonnie seconded

the motion. It passed unanimously.

Elizabeth said she was going to start with doing oral histories associated with the rural school research program and asked Dave about the digital recording equipment available. Dave said he would get the gear to her.

The discussion shifted back to the North Building and Chairman Logsdon's request for a formal position letter from the Commission. Dave offered to draft a letter and suggested that we recommend that either Wellington Place or the County, or both, fund the mitigation of the structure. Dave also brought up the idea of asking the County to setup a revolving grant fund to assist owners of historic structures with general maintenance and repairs. Lonnie thought that was a good idea but felt it was unlikely the Board would support both mitigation and a revolving grant fund. Lonnie followed that thought by suggesting we only request the mitigation. The general consensus of the Commission was to follow Lonnie's advice. Dave said he would draft the letter and distribute it via e-mail to all Commissioners before submitting it to the Board.

The final item discussed was the HRDP grant submittal. Dave said a member of his staff had reviewed the application and filled most of it out. Dave said it has to be done electronically and it is very, very confusing. He asked if the Commission would like to proceed with the process. The general consensus was yes, let's proceed.

Meeting adjourned at 10:30 A.M. with the next meeting scheduled for March 9<sup>th</sup>.