

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
January 8, 2011
8:30 P.M.
Vesterheim Amdal-Odland Heritage Center**

Present: Roger Bergan, Ferneva Brimacomb, Dave Stanley, Elizabeth Lorentzen, Steve Johnson, Janelle Pavlovec, Kevin Lee, and Mike Meyer.

Steve opened the meeting by discussing the minutes from the October and November meetings. Ferneva moved to approve the minutes from both meetings and Roger seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Elizabeth presented the treasurer's report and discussed the sales of the Vera Harris book which is selling quite well, 373 copies to date. She also noted that Agora Arts has also begun selling the self guided tour booklets. Elizabeth said the precise cost per book to the Commission is \$22.53. The discussion shifted to our current assets which stand at \$32,405.85. She listed the money market and CD rates from the local banks which is exceptionally low. Dave suggested that we explore mutual fund alternatives. Steve asked Dave to explore that possibility and he indicated he would. Elizabeth brought up the topic of costs related to reprinting the Vera Harris book. The estimate of reprinting another 1,000 copies would be approximately \$17,000 and Elizabeth thought it would important to keep that amount readily accessible. The general consensus of the Commission was that we should take that approach. Elizabeth also pointed out that if we decided to reprint only 500 copies it would increase the per book cost by five dollars (\$23.00 vs. \$17.00).

Ferneva moved to maintain at least \$17,000 in a money market account. Mike seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

Kevin cautioned that we should not invest County money used for operating expenses with money acquired through investments. Everyone agreed that it needed to be clarified what are County contributions and what results from interest accumulation. Elizabeth pointed out the previously mentioned \$32,405.85 was all Vera Harris money did not include contributions from the County or sales of the self guided tour booklets.

Elizabeth suggested that the Commission setup a website from which the Vera Harris book could be purchased from and that would cost approximately \$7 per month once it is setup. Dave suggested the website could contain other topics and aspects of the Historic Preservation Commission. Kevin and Elizabeth noted that they would explore this further by contacting Deb Paulson who would create the website and the County since they already have an existing website.

Dave moved to approve the treasurer's report. Roger seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

Steve steered the discussion to the Calmar Depot nomination. He indicated that he had spoken with David Anderson recently and he indicated that he had not received the comments from the State Nomination Review Committee although the State Historical Society indicated that they had sent the comments through the mail since David does not have e-mail. Dave Stanley volunteered to chase down the State Historical Society and obtain a copy of the review comments. David indicated to Steve that he has had two or three conversations with the State Historical Society but has not had any luck.

The discussion shifted to Kevin's proposal regarding funding to digitize, update, and add to the Lila Sheetz Schneider manuscript. The general consensus was that the proposal certainly has merits but there needs to be a clarification of what exactly the end product would be. Dave suggested the need for a detailed budget that clearly outlines the distribution of funds. Dave volunteered to develop a scope of work. Steve pointed out that the Commission should be cautious about distribution of funds and limit such distributions to Commission specific projects.

Janelle brought up the topic of interacting with other organizations within the County and adjoining counties. She offered to send out letters to other organizations asking about their approach to preserving historic properties.

Meeting adjourned at 10:00 A.M. Next meeting is scheduled on February 12th at the old Winneshiek County Jail.