

WINNESHIEK COUNTY HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

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

Commissioners: Kevin Lee
Ferneva Brimacomb
Roger Bergan
Rob Shadwick

Minutes of the Winneshiek County Historic Preservation Commission Meeting

July 18, 2009

8:30 P.M.

Vesterheim Westby-Torgerson Education Center

Present: Roger Bergan, Ferneva Brimacomb, Dave Stanley, Rob Shadwick, Elizabeth Lorentzen, Steve Johnson and Kevin Lee.

Guests included Janelle Pavlovec and Luther Anderson (City Councilman) from Calmar also attended the meeting, as did David Anderson.

Steve opened the meeting by going over the minutes from July meeting. Janelle noted that her name was misspelled and Elizabeth asked that the wording concerning the refurbishing of the kiosk be re-worked. With these changes Kevin moved to approve the minutes and Steve seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Elizabeth said that there were some errors in the Treasurer's report that needed to be addressed and she would e-mail it to the commission once she has had a chance to make some revisions.

Steve noted that the old canoe guide of the Upper Iowa River, published by George Knuteson in 1971 is presently being sold at Vanberia for only \$1.50 in case anyone was interested.

Steve then turned the discussion to contracting to nominate the old Calmar Railroad Depot to the National Register of Historic Places. Steve outlined that Dave's company, Bear Creek Archeology, Inc. would contribute \$500 towards the nomination cost. Steve turned to Luther Anderson and said that it was his understanding that the City of Calmar would contribute \$943 and Luther agreed that was the case. Steve then stated that the commission had voted to provide the balance of \$957 for the cost of \$2,400 to complete the National Register nomination. Luther briefed the commission on the overall objectives of how the old Railroad Depot would be utilized. He indicated that it would be used as a trailhead for the Prairie Farmer bicycle trail, a museum pertaining to railroad history, and an information center. Other uses include having lawn chair nights for various entertainment venues. Luther and Janelle indicated that the City council is

supportive of these ventures and that they were essentially the committee for development and restoration of the depot. Janelle noted that the original architectural plans for the structure have been retained. They then outlined the need to replace the windows, setup heat, and restroom facilities.

David Anderson, who will be preparing the nomination, outlined the process and estimated that it would likely take at least a year to complete it, have state and federal agencies review it, and submit a final.

Janelle brought up the recent visit to the depot by Paula Mohr and Jack Porter from the State Historical Society of Iowa. Both of whom agreed that the depot was potentially eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.

Roger suggested that we let the Board of Supervisors know what we are about to do. Steve said he would send them a letter.

Dave offered to prepare an agreement between the commission and David Anderson to carry preparation of the nomination and distribute it to the commission members.

Kevin mentioned the TAN program to Luther and explained how professionals for a fee would provide expert advice regarding the preparation of grant applications and other historic preservation issues. Ferneva noted that the TAN person would provide a report outlining recommendations and procedures. Kevin asked Luther if the City of Calmar owns the depot and said yes. Kevin indicated that the Winneshiek County Historical Society had been discussing utilizing the TAN program for the Old Winneshiek County Jail and that it might be possible to coordinate that with the Calmar Depot's needs to save on expenses. He also mentioned that the structure would need to be on the National Register in order to be eligible for Historic Resource Development Program or the Historic Sites Program grant money.

The discussion turned to replacing Art Koffron on the Historic Preservation Commission. The general consensus was that it would be ideal to locate someone from the southern part of the County who might be interested in serving on the commission. Dave asked if anyone knew anyone. He also suggested that the Board of Supervisors run an ad in the Ossian newspapers and see if there would be any responses.

The discussion changed to the publications and Elizabeth indicated that she was getting close on completing preparation of Vera Harris' manuscript for publication. The manuscript is presently layout ready would be submitted once Elizabeth completed the Forward. Elizabeth reported that she had refurbished and cleaned up the kiosk but noted that ultra violet rays from the sun was causing damage to the historic photographs. She indicated that there are special screens that can be used for U.V. Elizabeth then presented a poster illustrating a number of historic and unique architectural properties in Decorah. The poster would be placed within the kiosk. Elizabeth noted that to have the reproduced in poster format cost \$75. She asked the commission if it would be appropriate to cover

that cost. A brief discussion ensued and Freneva moved to provide \$75 for such a purchase. Steve seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Kevin outlined a number of issues that needed to be addressed regarding the Old Winneshiek County Jail and asked if the commission would be willing to contribute to the cost of obtaining a TAN specialist. He indicated that the Winneshiek County Historical Society and the Pioneer Cemetery Association would also be making contributions.

Roger moved to provide a sum not to exceed \$100. Dave seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 A.M.