

## 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**

**June 20, 2009**

**8:30 P.M.**

**Vesterheim Westby-Torgerson Education Center**

**Present:** Dave Stanley, Rob Shadwick, Elizabeth Lorentzen, Steve Johnson, Kevin Lee. Janelle Pavlovec from Calmar also attended the meeting.

Dave opened the meeting by describing the Historic Preservation Workshop that took place on May 2<sup>nd</sup>. The meeting was well attended with approximately 40 people present. The two presenters, Paula Mohr from the State Historical Society and Greg Narber of Luther College, both discussed depression era architecture and the effects of Franklin Roosevelt's domestic policies during the 1930s. Both Decorahnews.com and the Decorah Journal had feature articles on the workshop.

Dave distributed the minutes from the April 18<sup>th</sup> meeting. Kevin moved to approve the minutes and Rob seconded the motion. It was approved unanimously.

Elizabeth presented the treasurer's report and an update on the Vera Harris manuscript. The target date for publication would be late summer and the cost is estimated to be between \$3,000 and \$5,000, possibly more depending upon how high of quality the Commission decides to go with. Elizabeth mentioned she has encountered a large of number of photos depicting many of the structures discussed in Vera's manuscript. These include the Paine House (Gothic style on Broadway Street). Mary Kay Lynch has the original photographs and has offered them for Vera's manuscript. However, they are in very old frames and in delicate condition. Elizabeth suggested that we have the photos removed from the frames by a professional, scanned, and then returned to the frames. She suggested that we use the Perfect Edge and that it be done at the Commission's cost. Dave moved to pay for this and Kevin seconded the motion. It was passed unanimously.

Rob moved to approve the treasurer's report and Kevin seconded the motion. It was passed unanimously.

Elizabeth brought up the fact that the kiosks in downtown needed to be refurbished in regard to paint. Elizabeth had repainted one particular kiosk that deals with historic

architecture near the Oneota Co-op and noted that it needs to be painted every three years. Another issue was that the sun was starting to degrade the photographs and it is necessary to place a protective coating over the glass. The question was then raised whether or not the Commission would take responsibility for this specific kiosk given its historic application. A general discussion took place and the consensus was that the Commission would take responsibility for the cost of materials. Steve moved that the Commission would pay for the materials. Dave seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

Kevin updated the Commission on the status of the Spillville Old Stone Mill's National Register nomination. The nomination has proceeded through the state's review and is now at the federal level.

Steve notified the Commission that Art Koffron, a member of the Winneshiek County Historic Preservation Commission had died of a heart attack at the age 70.

Janelle Pavlovec of Calmar presented the Commission with information concerning the Calmar Railroad Depot and its historic significance. She asked if the Commission would be interested in applying for a Certified Local Grant to nominate the depot to the National Register of Historic Places. The community would like to set the depot up to be a combination railroad museum, tourist information center, and trail head for the Prairie-Farmer Recreational Trail. Janelle indicated that the City of Calmar had some matching cash. Dave asked what the anticipated cost for doing the National Register Nomination was and how much cash would the City be willing to provide. Janelle said the City could provide \$943 and the estimated cost would be around \$2,386 for the nomination. A discussion then took place regarding all the problems with trying to obtain a CLG grant, the length of time before one knows if the grant is awarded, and the actual management of one if it is awarded. Dave noted that for the small amount of money being discussed it would hardly be worth the time and trouble. He then indicated that the cost for the nomination seemed rather low and asked Janelle how that figure was obtained. She said that it was the estimate she obtained from David Anderson, a local architectural historian. Most of information needed for the nomination had already been assembled.

Steve questioned whether or not the Commission could afford to fund the nomination with the City's contribution. Dave said if the Commission would contribute the balance of the nomination cost his company, Bear Creek Archeology, Inc. would provide a \$500 donation to the Commission. The general consensus of the Commission was that this sounded do-able. Dave said he would contact David Anderson and get a cost and brief technical proposal from him. He also would contact Luther Anderson (no relation to Dave) a Calmar City Councilman to make sure the City was still willing to provide some match. Dave would then present this information to the Commission at the next meeting. The meeting adjourned at 10:15 AM.