

**Minutes of the Winneshiek County
Historic Preservation Commission
Meeting
February 5, 2005
8:30 A.M.
Old Winneshiek County Jail**

Present

Roger Bergan, Kevin Lee, Dave Stanley, Ferneva Brimacomb, Elizabeth Lorentzen, and Rob Shadwick.

Elizabeth opened the meeting with the treasurer's report. She outlined the purchase of a scanner, a printer and four chairs.

Ferneva, Kevin, and Roger discussed their attendance of the Board of Supervisor's meeting. At that meeting they presented the Historic Preservation Commission's request for funding for the next fiscal year. The funding request was for \$2,800. The bulk of this, \$2,000, will be used to fund the reprinting of "A Self-Guided Auto Tour of Winneshiek County". Originally published in 1987 this document focuses on many of the historic sites within the County. Office supplies totaled \$200 and \$600 was proposed to cover the expenses for attending conferences and workshops related to historic preservation.

Elizabeth outlined the written guidelines associated with the Malkan Bequest. These guidelines indicate that the bequest should focus on publishing the Vera Harris manuscript with the remaining amount supporting the preservation of the East Side School.

Elizabeth indicated that the effort to preserve the East Side School needs to raise 1.98 million dollars in three distinct phases. She did note the efforts are being made to pursue establishing archival space in the basement.

At this stage the discussion turned to the possibility of renting space East Side for the Historic Preservation Commission, the Pioneer Cemetery Association, the Historical Society. Kevin said it was his understanding that it would cost \$80 a square foot and that we would need at least 1,100 square feet. The consensus of the commission was that it would not be possible, even with all three organizations contributing, to pay \$8,800 a year.

At this point Kevin raised the issue that the Board of Supervisor may decide not to heat the Old Jail. This could be a real problem because the Historical Society stores all of its collections at the Old Jail.

Ferneva suggested that the Historic Preservation Commission could contribute something to the yearly heating bill. The consensus of the commission was to pursue this and Kevin said he would check out the yearly cost of heating the Old Jail.

The discussion shifted to the Historic Preservation Commission making a commitment to staying in the Old Jail as opposed to moving to the East Side School. Kevin outlined a list of needs in regard to the archival space at the Old Jail. These included removing the bunks within individual cells, improved lighting, and the heating issue.

Elizabeth moved that the commission should commit itself to remaining in the Old Jail. Ferneva seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

Elizabeth told the commission that she had contacted the Deputy City Clerk, Wanda Heneseth, about speaking at the next Decorah City Council meeting. Elizabeth is proposing that the City display signage that clearly outlines the City's Historic District. Kevin provided her with an example of the type and size of signs used by the Pioneer Cemetery Association to show the City Council.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 A.M. **Next meeting is scheduled for March 19th at the Old Winneshiek County Jail at 8:30 A.M.**