

**Minutes of the Winneshiek County
Historic Preservation Commission
Meeting
July 10, 2004
8:30 A.M.
Vesterheim Westby-Torgerson Education Building**

Present

Roger Bergan, Kevin Lee, Dave Stanley, Ferneva Brimacombe, Elizabeth Lorentzen, Steve Johnson.

Steve opened the meeting by informing the commission that the Board of Supervisors approved a \$2,000 budget for fiscal year 2005-2000. He also presented a brochure outlining information for the Historic Preservation Alliance Conference scheduled for July 30th in Anamosa.

Kevin and Elizabeth expressed interest in attending this conference for one of the two days scheduled.

Steve moved to approve conference fees and travel expenses for Kevin and Elizabeth if they decide to attend the conference. Dave seconded the motion.

The motion was approved unanimously.

Steve suggested that the HPC host a “mini-conference” on historic preservation. Some possibilities for this were discussed including having the event at the Winneshiek Hotel. Everyone was in agreement on this topic with the details needing to be worked out later.

Kevin and Elizabeth expressed interest in attending the Historic Preservation Alliance meeting in Anamosa.

Steve moved to approve conference fees and travel expenses for Kevin and Elizabeth if they are able to attend. Dave seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

Elizabeth met an elderly woman from Texas, Audrey Malken, who expressed an interest in donating \$11,000 to the commission. She requested that these funds be used to edit and publish a handwritten history of historic houses in Decorah including detailed descriptions of who lived in them ca. 1915. This volume was authored by Vera “Bucknell” Harris during the 1980s, who was Audrey Malken’s aunt. Ms. Malken indicated that she would like the proceeds from this publication to go towards restoring the East Side School and the development of a museum outlining the history of the community.

Ferneva suggested that it might be a good idea to put together a letter to all of the potential historic organizations, i.e. Winneshiek County Historical Society, Pioneer

Cemetery Association, Genealogy Society, etc., that may have an interest in relocating to East Side School and/or in developing a historic museum. The objective would be to develop an umbrella organization that would cover all of the organizations' interest in acquiring suitable space at the East Side School. A general discussion followed concerning the need for space and the possibilities at East School. The general consensus was that although the space would be very desirable funding is limited. Ferneva raised the issue of whether or not the commission should commit to acquiring space at East Side. The general consensus of the commission was that at this point the commission lacks significant resources for such a commitment and that it is necessary to consult with the above noted organizations.

Kevin brought the discussion back to Ms. Malken's offer and whether or not the commission should accept such a responsibility and the need to consult with the Board of Supervisors.

Steve offered to discuss the situation with the Board of Supervisors.

Dave suggested that the commission should meet as soon as possible to develop a strategy regarding the donation. It was decided that August 21st would be the best date for such a meeting.

Next meeting scheduled for August 21st at a yet to be determined location and time.