

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

September 5, 2009

8:30 P.M.

Vesterheim Westby-Torgerson Education Center

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

Steve opened the meeting by welcoming Janelle to the Commission. She had recently been selected to join by the Board of Supervisors to replace Art Koffron. Steve also noted that the agreement between the Commission and David Anderson to nominate the Calmar Depot to the National Register of Historic Places has been signed and filed with our records at the Old Winneshiek County Jail.

Dave suggested that Janelle be the go between with David Anderson since it was primarily through her efforts that the nomination is going forward. In addition she knows a great deal about the history of the Depot and past efforts to preserve and utilize it. Janelle agreed.

The discussion turned to the Depot nomination. There is an ice cream trailer stored in front of the Depot and would be readily apparent in any photographs submitted with the nomination. Janelle wondered if that would hinder the draft review. Dave felt that it would clearly be commented upon by the review committees and they would require photos that do not included the ice cream trailer. He felt an attempt to photograph the structure without the ice cream trailer should be made. Janelle noted that the trailer is mobile and it would be the City of Calmar's responsibility to move it. The question was raised that if this was not possible would we still accept and submit the draft as well as pay David 70% of the fee (as per the agreement) upon submittal. The general consensus was that the ice cream trailer should not be in the draft and the commission would not accept the draft if that was the case. This topic would be revisited if there were mitigating circumstances.

Steve brought up the July minutes (the last meeting) which were reviewed by the Commission. Several errors were noted and Dave said he would correct them. Elizabeth

moved to approve the minutes with the changes noted. Ferneva seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Elizabeth presented the treasurer's report but noted that she neglected to note the money spent for the National Geographic photographs of hedgerows that will be included in the Vera Harris manuscript. Elizabeth said she would make that adjustment and e-mail a revised treasurer's report to the Commission members. A general discussion followed about whether or not we should consider investing money in something other than certificate of deposits which had very low interest rates. The consensus was that we were better off staying with the CDs. Elizabeth brought up that we might want to contribute some money to an endowment if one was established by the Winneshiek County Historical Society for establishing a museum representing the County history. The Commission as a whole thought it might be a good idea if indeed the Historical Society went that route. There was no vote on the topic since the endowment has yet to be established.

The next topic was the Technical Advisory Network (TAN). Kevin briefed everyone on the fees associated with this organization which would assist in grant writing. The focus was upon the Old Winneshiek County Jail and obtaining a grant to preserve and utilize the structure. The TAN would advise on how to put the grant together but the fee was \$165. The three organizations currently using the structure include the Commission, the Winneshiek Historical Society and the Pioneer Cemetery Commission. Ferneva thought the Historical Society would take the lead on this but hoped the fee could be divided equally between the three organizations. Currently the County pays all the utility bills and Kevin thought that over the last 6 or 7 years the cost was approximately \$300 per month. He said he would approach the Board of Supervisors about the TAN and a possible grant application. Dave moved to contribute one third of the TAN cost and the motion was seconded by Roger. It passed unanimously.

Elizabeth briefed the Commission on the status of the Vera Harris manuscript which is nearly complete. She said that it is estimated that a hardback version including all photographs would cost \$8,000 for 500 copies (\$16 per copy).

The next topic was sponsoring Certified Local Government (CLG) grants and how much turnaround was necessary for us to review any potential grant applications and make a decision on whether or not to sponsor it. There was agreement that we should have a minimum of 30 days to do so. Kevin moved that the Commission would need a minimum of 30 days and that any such applications must be submitted to the Secretary for distribution to the Commission. Roger seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

Steve said he had talked with the Chairman of the Board of Supervisions about expanding the Commission by one additional member in order to get some representation from Ossian. Mike Myer was very interested in the position the Board Chairman was also

conducive to the idea. The general consensus of the Commission was that we should proceed but we need to check our by-laws to see if there was a specific number.

Meeting adjourned at 10:00 A.M.