

WINNESHIEK COUNTY HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

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

**Commissioners: Kevin Lee
Fernea Brimacomb
Roger Bergan
Rob Shadwick
Art Koffron**

**Minutes of the Winneshiek County
Historic Preservation Commission
Meeting
October 11, 2008
8:30 P.M.
Old County Jail**

Present: Dave Stanley, Kevin Lee, Elizabeth Lorentzen, Rob Shadwick, Roger Bergan, Fernea Brimacomb.

Elizabeth opened the meeting with the treasurer's report. She put \$16,000 in a money market account that is FDIC insured at Farmers and Merchants Savings Bank. The interest rate is 3.22%. The CD is maturing soon and earned \$968 plus the \$21,764.22 principal. There was some discussion on whether or not we should shop around for CD rates. Dave noted there is minimal if any difference amongst the area banks and suggested we just roll it over as is. Roger moved to roll over the CD and Fernea seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Elizabeth mentioned that Hope Malkin was in town in July and that Elizabeth had an opportunity to have tea with her. Hope was pleased with the publications sponsored by the Commission, the calendar put together by Elizabeth's students, and the progress being made on the Vera Harris manuscript.

Dave presented the July minutes. Kevin moved to approve the minutes and Rob seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Kevin brought up the old county home and the former caretaker's house. A committee consisting primarily of the East Side School committee have met with the Board of Supervisors regarding how best to preserve both structures. Kevin indicated that both structures are in good solid condition. There were some problems with the former caretaker's house. It had been rented out but the renters moved out and shut off the heat during the winter and the pipes burst. That problem was resolved. The Board of Supervisors have given the committee two years to come up with a plan or find someone who would rent the caretakers house. The Pioneer Cemetery Commission has hired a professional cleaning firm to clean out the old county home's basement for their use but a use for the rest of the structure has yet to be determined.

Ferneva noted that the Board of Supervisor's would like a firm and concise plan on how both structures will be utilized. Dave suggested that the old county home would be a good and rather inexpensive office space and felt that nominating either or both structures to the National Register of Historic Places might hinder their use. He thought it would be more important from a preservation standpoint to find someone that might be willing to find a commercial use for one or both structures.

Rob said that he had heard that the proposed plans to construct an Aqua Center would involve tearing down the old bath house at the municipal swimming pool. The proposed Aqua Center is designed to be a joint effort between Luther College and Winnes hiek County, alt hough it sounds like it would require a County wide bond issue. In any event Dave noted that the bath house was built in the 1930s by either the WPA or the CCC and is clearly eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. Rob indica ted that it was his understanding that the pool would remain active and in place and it was not clear why there was a need to be torn down other than to replace it with a new structure. Rob pointed out that if it is true that this should be an issue for t he City Historic Preservation Commission to address.

Dave asked if we should send C.J. Lensing, the owner of the Freeport Hilltop Cemetery a letter giving him 10 day notice that the Commission would like to visit the cemetery. Kevin thought that would be a good idea and we should include the Pioneer Cemetery Commission. Dave said he would put a letter together for the next Commission meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 10:00. Next meeting is scheduled for November 8th.