

**Minutes of the Winneshiek County
Historic Preservation Commission
Meeting
November 12, 2005
8:30 A.M.
Vesterheim Education Center**

Present

Kevin Lee, Dave Stanley, Steve Johnson, Rob Shadwick, Ferneva Bremicomb, Elizabeth Lorentzen.

Steve opened the meeting with a review of the minutes from the September 10th meeting. Rob moved to approve the minutes and the motion was seconded by Ferneva.

Kevin passed around information regarding the Freeport Pioneer Cemetery. The cemetery is not clearly defined and Kevin suspects many of the graves lack markers. The neighboring property owner is disputing the proposed boundaries and there is some concern regarding future development of adjacent property.

Ferneva asked Kevin what the Pioneer Cemetery Association's involvement or responsibility is regarding the Freeport Pioneer Cemetery. Kevin indicated that they do not maintain the property or have a direct involvement. He did note that the association does keep an eye on the cemetery and is now concerned about potential development in its immediate vicinity, especially since it is likely that unmarked burials may exist outside the current fencing. The existing fencing was setup only around the marked graves. A historic plat map indicates that the cemetery is approximately three acres in size.

Dave proposed going after a CLG grant to survey and construct a detailed map of the cemetery. It was not clear to the commission what the CLG grant deadlines are and Dave said he would look into it (it turns out that the grant cycle begins in June and applications must be submitted by August).

Ferneva suggested we consider a Winneshiek County Gaming Revenue Grant, the deadline for which is January 15th.

Kevin indicated that he would investigate the Gaming Revenue grant.

Dave suggested we contact the Office of the State Archeologist about the use of ground penetrating radar to locate unmarked graves. The OSA has the equipment for this type of thing but the results have been variable depending upon the nature of the landforms being investigated.

Elizabeth presented the Treasurer's Report. She explained some of the problems with the Historic District signage which were made by the prison industry. Instead of two three

foot signs they sent two six foot signs. Seven signs are street sign size (blade signs) as requested.

Steve suggested we authorize expenditures for two more blade signs.

Kevin moved to authorize the expenditure of \$20 for two more blade signs and it was seconded by Ferneva. It was unanimously approved.

Elizabeth noted that the Auto Guide publication has finally been proofed and is ready to print. It is 40 pages long. Elizabeth outlined the many trials and tribulations associated with this project but it is nearing completion.

Elizabeth indicated that we are a bit short on cash to pay the printer since the County authorization of our next fiscal year funding has not yet been released. The funds have been authorized by the cash has not been transferred to the Commission account.

Kevin thought we should contact the Board of Supervisors and in the meantime we could make a partial payment to the printer.

Elizabeth suggested that we distribute a minimum of 24 copies of the Auto Guide to the following retailers:

- Luther College Book Store
- Vesterheim Musuem
- Decorah Chamber of Commerce
- Hotel Winneshiek
- Oneota Food Co-op
- Local county banking institutions

A general discussion than took place regarding the distribution of potential profits from sales of the Auto Guide. It was decided that potential profits will be used for a publication fund, either re-prints of the Auto Guide or others that illustrate the local history.

It was also decided that the Commission will wait and see what the final printing, editing, print preparation costs are before establishing a per copy cost and a profit percentage.

Kevin requested that we authorization travel cost for him relating to traveling about the county to photograph the sites illustrated in the Auto Guide. Steve moved to authorize this expense and Elizabeth seconded the motion. It was unanimously approved.

The discussion returned to the Treasurer's report. Rob moved that the Treasurer's report be approved and Kevin seconded the motion. It was unanimously approved.

Steve noted that it was time for everyone to gather together information pertaining to the CLG annual report.

The Commission discussed and then decided that we would not have a December meeting and the next meeting would be January 14th, 2006.

Ferneva informed the Commission that the Winneshiek County Historical Society had discovered some early records (three boxes worth) of the Winneshiek County Historic Preservation Commission in their archives. She and Kevin would meet to transfer these records to the HPC office in the Old County Jail.

Meeting adjourned at 10:00 A.M.