

WINNESHIEK COUNTY HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

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

Commissioners: Kevin Lee
Ferneva Brimacomb
Roger Bergan
Janelle Pavlovec
Mike Meyer

**Minutes of the Winneshiek County
Historic Preservation Commission
Meeting
November 13th, 2010
8:30 A.M.
Vesterheim Amdal-Odland Heritage Center**

Present: Roger Bergan, Ferneva Brimacomb, Dave Stanley, Elizabeth Lorentzen, Steve Johnson, Janelle Pavlovec, Kevin Lee, and Mike Meyer. Guests include Lyle Otte, Deborah Bishop, and David Anderson.

Steve opened up the meeting with a review of the minutes from the October meeting but Dave forgot to bring them with him.

Elizabeth presented the treasurer's report revealing a total balance of \$42,403.16 after paying for layout work and editing costs for the Vera Harris book. Elizabeth anticipated the final cost of printing out the book would be in the neighborhood of \$17,000. She also indicated that the CD the commission has at Viking State Bank would mature on November 30th. After a brief discussion the consensus was not to let the CD roll over but instead put it into the checking and money market account until the final costs of the Vera Harris book is known and the Commission has a better handle on what potential CD interest rates would be after the first of the year. Elizabeth noted that she had paid \$150 to obtain the ISBN number and bar code for the Vera Harris Book. Dave moved to approve the treasurer's report and reimburse Elizabeth for the bar code and ISBN purchase. Ferneva seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

The topic shifted to the Calmar Depot National Register Nomination. Dave noted that Paula Mohr (11/05/10) indicated that the nomination has not been submitted yet to the feds and was waiting on some final and minor changes suggested by the State committee. Dave asked David Anderson if he had received any correspondence from the state concerning these changes. David noted that he had not received anything to date. Dave then asked David if he would provide all of the review comments pertaining to the nomination. David's response was that it was not a requirement outlined in the contract agreement between the HPC and himself.

Elizabeth updated the Commission on the Vera Harris book. It is hoped that 1,000 copies of the book would be printed and distributed before the Holiday Season so it would be

available for Christmas. Three retailers, Vesterheim Museum, Agora Arts, and the Luther College bookstore have committed to buying 28 copies each with a 40% mark up. The book will retail for \$40 with the Commission receiving \$24. The book will consist of 140 pages with 60 photographs. Elizabeth proposed that the Commission set up a Web Site Link that would sell the book using PayPal as a payment method. Kevin moved to proceed with establishing a Web Site and Roger seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Steve introduced Deborah Bishop with the Oneota Historic Future Alliance. Deborah presented the Commission with an update of the Caretaker's House in Freeport. The contract between OHFA and the Board of Supervisors and the OHFA has until April of 2011 to either tear down the structure or find someone to move it. Deborah discussed the presentation by Jim Burns to the Board in hopes of extending their agreement. She also indicated there is a potential tenant and her organization is encouraging a letter writing campaign for preserving the structure.

Lyle Otte, representing the Decorah Historic Preservation Commission presented a document entitled "Planning for Preservation Project and Research Guide" prepared by David Anderson. This document contains the standard list of survey and documentation of existing historic properties recommendation. Two specific recommendations included the hiring of an archivist specialist to inventory and digitize the collection belonging to the Winneshiek County Historical Society and greater cooperation between the various historic organizations.

Dave noted that it is unlikely that the City and County would be willing to take on the cost of hiring a professional archivist. Ferneva suggested bringing all the historic organizations together for a symposium or workshop. Steve thought it would useful to setup something up where all the historic organizations would outline their individual projects over the last several years. Ferneva made a motion to pursue something of this nature and Janelle seconded the motion. It was passed unanimously.

Kevin presented a proposal that would update and digitize information recorded by the late Lila Sheetz Schneider that focuses on a collection of historic sketches and obituaries associated with all the Freeport cemeteries. Kevin noted that there has never been a detailed history compiled for Freeport and requested funding from the Commission to initiate the project.

Dave thought that this sounded like an interesting project but suggested that the idea be shelved until the publication of the Vera Harris book and associated costs are finalized. The general consensus of the Commission was to discuss this project at a later date.

Elizabeth mentioned the extensive contribution to the Vera Harris book by the Winneshiek County Historic Society over the last several years and thought a donation to the Society would be appropriate. Dave moved to donate \$1,000 to the Winneshiek Historical Society. Mike seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 10:30 and the next meeting was scheduled for January 8, 2011.