

**Minutes of the Winneshiek County
Historic Preservation Commission
Meeting
February 11, 2006
8:30 A.M.
Vesterheim Westby Education Center**

Present

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

Ferneva moved to approve the minutes for the January 7th meeting. Rob seconded the motion the minutes were approved unanimously.

Dave brought up that there is some confusion regarding each commission member's term on the commission and that he would check with the auditor's office.

The 2005 annual report was examined and Kevin moved to approve it. Ferneva seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Kevin updated the commission on the status of the Freeport Cemetery. Little has changed since the attempt to fence off the cemetery based on the legally regarded plat map. The county attorney refuses do anything until Shirley Schermer of the OSA's burial program makes a decision. Shirley recommended that a professional survey be carried out but at this stage there is no funding for such an endeavor. Even if there was it is unlikely that the landowner would allow access.

Elizabeth presented the treasurer's report. She suggested that we separate the publication fund and the Commission's operating from the Malkan bequest. Rob moved to create a separate account for the Malkan bequest and it was seconded by Ferneva. The motion was approved unanimously.

Elizabeth proposed that \$30,000 out of the \$34,480 Malkan fund be used to purchase a 6 month certificate of deposit with a yield of 4.85%. The remaining money would be used to continue the effort to edit and publish the Vera Harris manuscript. Dave made a motion to purchase a certificate of deposit and Rob seconded the motion. It was approved unanimously.

Steve pointed out that the Silos and Smokestacks organization was holding a conference at the Hotel Winneshiek March 21st and 22nd. Dave moved to approve reimbursement of registration fees for all Commission members who attend the meeting. Ferneva seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

Elizabeth reported on the supervisors meeting and indicated that they were very pleased with the Auto Tour Guide. She submitted our proposed budget of \$2,800 but had not heard yet if it was approved.

The discussion then turned to publishing a 2007 calendar illustrating historic sites in Winneshiek County. Ferneva proposed selecting some of the sites outlined in the Auto Tour guide. The general consensus was that the commission members would each come up with suggestions. Dave suggested that a site from each township be selected but Kevin pointed out that there are 20 townships and 12 calendar slots.

Elizabeth requested that Wanda Gardner be paid for her editing of the Vera Harris manuscript to date. The cost would be \$180. Ferneva moved to approve payment and Kevin seconded the motion. It was approved unanimously.

Steve brought of the issue of whether or not we should meet every month or not. After a general discussion it was decided that we not meet in July and December. Dave moved to approve and Rob seconded the motion. It was approved unanimously.

Ferneva reported that the Winneshiek County Historical Society met with the Board of Supervisors to discuss the needs at the Old Jail. Supervisor Darling wanted to know why there were three separate organizations, the Winneshiek County Historic Preservation Commission, the Winneshiek County Historical Society, and the Pioneer Cemetery Association. His concern was that they might be overlapping organizations. The Board of Supervisors asked what it would take to make the Old Jail into a research facility that could house the historic archives as well as the Genealogy Society. Ferneva told the Board she would consult with the various organizations and then meet with Gordon Hunter to present our needs and wanted to know if the Commission wanted to be in on the meeting. The general consensus was yes but our primary interest is pretty much restricted to the office space. Ferneva would setup the meeting and Steve and Kevin volunteered to attend.

Meeting adjourned at 10:15 A.M.
Next meeting on March 11th.