

**Minutes of the Winneshiek County
Historic Preservation Commission
Meeting
February 10, 2007
8:30 A.M.
Vesterheim Westby Education Center**

Present

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

Steve opened the meeting with a review of the January 13th meeting minutes and then moved to approve the minutes. Dave seconded the motion and the minutes were approved unanimously.

Rob spoke with the Board of Supervisors on January 22nd, regarding the Commission's budget request of \$2,900, an increase of \$100 from the previous year. The Chairman, Dean Darling, indicated it is unlikely that the commission would receive an increase because the County's revenue has not increased. The Supervisors were interested in the publications being issued by the commission but felt the idea for a historic calendar might not work well because it would be dated. Steve and Elizabeth also attended the meeting.

Ferneva outlined a meeting with Paula Mohr the new CLG coordinator for the State Historical Society of Iowa. Steve and Elizabeth were also present and all came away with a very positive impression. The commission was encouraged to submit a CLG grant proposal for this year.

Dave suggested that we submit a grant application this year. Steve thought that we should put together something that focused on the Freeport Pioneer Cemetery and outlined the need to have an archeological survey of the cemetery. A discussion regarding access problems ensued. Kevin read the letter from Shirley Schermer the burials program coordinator at the Office of the State Archeologist. The letter made it clear a survey would be the first step in addressing some of the issues. Kevin brought the issue of a buffer around the known parameters of the cemetery but that the surrounding property is resisting these efforts and has hired a lawyer.

Dave indicated that he would contact Shirley Schermer and raised the possibility that the Wisconsin Winnebago Tribe might be interested since it is possible if not likely that Native American burials are present.

The major objective of a CLG grant would be defining the parameters of the cemetery with secondary objectives including mapping, developing a GIS, and assessing the potential for damage from erosion.

Dave noted the need to provide actual cash match. Elizabeth thought this would be a good time to present the treasurers report. At the conclusion of Elizabeth's presentation she noted that the commission could have \$2,000 or more to use as cash match. Kevin said he would approach the Pioneer Cemetery Association and the Freeport Cemetery Association about any contributions they might be able to offer. Kevin also noted that the Freeport Cemetery Association is the legal owner of the property.

Steve wondered about the extent of damage that might occur between now and when the survey would take place in the Fall of 2007. At this stage it was determined that there was not much that could be done.

Dave offered to explore the CLG grant further. The commission outlined the need to contact OSA and scope out just what is needed to apply for the CLG grant. Kevin noted that the cemetery is approximately 3 acres in size and that a land survey was been done so there is a legal plat.

Steve moved to pursue the CLG grant and Roger seconded the motion. It was passed unanimously.

Steve brought up the topic of Eastside School. Elizabeth noted that she had spoke with Pat Johnson. A concerted effort is being put together to focus on developing a "green" renovation of the building. A group of builders and architects have been assembled to study this and there will be a meeting and presentation on what their assessments are.

Meeting adjourned at 10:00 A.M.
Next meeting on February 10th.