

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

Present

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

Steve opened the meeting by moving to approve the minutes from the February meeting. Elizabeth seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

Elizabeth presented the treasurer's report but due to computer malfunctions she was not able to print out the results. So she did a verbal presentation. There is presently \$1,383.50 in the publication fund, \$2,361.35 in the regular account, and a \$34,409.82 certificate of deposit. Dave moved to approve the verbal report. Kevin seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

Elizabeth noted that she has been working on updating and editing the historic self-guided tour of Decorah and that it is now at Deb Paulson's. Deb will prepare it for printing. The printing costs are not yet clear. George Knudsen originally prepared this booklet in 1971. Elizabeth has updated and re-worked it. She also suggested that the commission sell the booklet to Luther College at cost since they have the original copyright and was very cooperative in allowing it to be re-printed and updated. Steve suggested that the cost should include both Elizabeth's and Wanda's time for editing and updating. The commission agreed. Kevin moved to sell the booklet to Luther at cost, Steve seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

Elizabeth brought us up to date on the Verna Harris manuscript. Ferneva scoured the Historical Society's archives for old photos that had been taken of some of the structures discussed in the manuscript. Copy and other costs from the Winneshiek County Historical Society totaled \$80.69. Dave moved to pay the historical society and Steve seconded the motion. It was approved unanimously.

Kevin initiated discussion concerning the Freeport Pioneer Cemetery. The Freeport Pioneer Cemetery Association told Kevin they could provide \$1,000 of their own funds and \$1,000 given to them by the Winneshiek County Pioneer Cemetery Association. An additional \$1,000 would be donated directly from the Winneshiek County Pioneer Cemetery Association. This would total \$3,000. The Commission discussed how much it could provide and the general consensus was \$2,000. Elizabeth moved to provide \$2,000 and Ferneva seconded the motion. It was approved unanimously. This would mean that we would have a total of \$5,000 to provide as cash match for a \$5,000 grant to investigate the Freeport Pioneer Cemetery.

A discussion then followed regarding specific tasks that would need to be carried out. The entire cemetery would be surveyed to determine as much as possible the cemetery boundaries. Once the boundaries have been determined then a one hundred-foot buffer would be established. A detailed map of the cemetery along with the one hundred-foot buffer would be established. The map would include the topographic features including, ditches and erosion channels. All head and foot-stones would be mapped, photographed, transcribed, and entered into a database that can be accessed using a GIS. This would also apply to those that have displaced with a note indicating that they do not appear to be in their original position.

Ferneva and Kevin both brought up oral histories that directly relate to the cemetery. Dave was not sure if this was possible within the monetary constraints since transcriptions can be very time consuming. Steve indicated that oral histories are a rapidly vanishing resource and wondered if members of the commission or possibly others might want to do it as in-kind match. Dave noted that digital technology may have been developed that would greatly aid in recording and transcribing oral histories. He indicated that he would consult with his computer specialist and see if he was aware of the digital possibilities.

Steve moved on to the topic of the East Side School. Elizabeth mentioned that the fund raising included contacting East Side graduates and that they were presently up to the 1970s. She noted that there has been significant interest and support from the graduates. Ferneva informed everyone that the Winneshiek County Historical Society would be hosting a fund-raiser at the Pizza Ranch, 10% of which would be donated to the East Side preservation fund. Elizabeth said that an art auction would take place at the old opera house on April 21st with proceeds going to the East Side School fund. Music and wine would be available and there is a \$20 entrance fee.

Kevin requested reimbursement for mileage to West Union and back for a presentation on historic preservation. Dave moved to reimburse Kevin and Roger seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.

Steve brought up sponsoring a workshop this fall that would focus on historic preservation. A general discussion ensued regarding topics. These included presenting our experience with publications, editing, and getting everything print ready. This concluded with everyone deciding to gather some topics to be discussed at the next meeting. If we do a workshop/conference it was decided that a number of organizations needed to be contacted including other CLGs, Historical Societies, the Iowa Archeological Society, and others that might be interested.

Elizabeth brought up the topic of whether or not we as the Winneshiek County Historic Preservation Commission should send a formal letter of support regarding the preservation of the East Side School to the East Side committee. After a brief discussion

Kevin moved to authorize Elizabeth to draft and send a letter of support. Roger seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 10:10 A.M.
Next meeting on April 14th.