

WINNESHIEK COUNTY HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

Steven Johnson, Chairperson

David Stanley, Secretary

Elizabeth Lorentzen, Treasurer

LaVonne Sharp

Roger Bergan

Ferneva Brimacomb

David Wadsworth

Kim Glock

Terri Mozzone

**Minutes of the Winneshiek County Historic Preservation Commission
meeting at the Old Winneshiek County Jail, March 10, 2018 at 8:30 AM.**

Present: Dave Stanley, Kim Glock, Roger Bergan, Steve Johnson, Ferneva Brimacomb, Elizabeth Lorentzen, Kim Glock, Terri Mozzone, and John Beard

Steve opened the meeting with a review of the minutes. LaVonne moved to approve and Terri seconded the motion. It was approved unanimously.

Elizabeth presented the Treasurer's report. Terri moved to accept the report and Kim seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

John was up next to discuss recent developments with the Board of Supervisors. He said that the County had approved a bid for the repairs and refurbishing of the courthouse roof. He noted that the committee advising on the project (including two Commissioners) had a very productive meeting on Thursday.

The discussion shifted to the HPC office. Dave noted the carpet was replaced as well as the locks and he had moved in the HPC property that had been stored at Bear Creek Archeology. The outlets still needed to be updated but furniture has begun to accumulate. A discussion also developed on the availability of the recently remodeled Courthouse Annex and how impressive it is.

Terri updated the status of the Highlandville School repair/refurbish project. The Depot grant is close to submittal with only up to date photographs. The grant applications will be reviewed late in April. Steve questioned whether the HRDP grant (due April 24th) is worth applying for since the cash match cannot be used prior to (if the grant is approved) the actual contracts being signed. His experience has been that could take 9 months or more. Since the existing \$9,000 would be used in the spring for some of the necessary repairs than it would not be able to be used as cash match. Dave said he would clarify that with the grant coordinator.

Distribution of the Malkan Estate funds was next on the agenda. Steve introduced the request letter from the Winneshiek County Historical Society dated March 7th along with a March 8th e-mail from the County Attorney responding to Steve's inquiry as to whether the interest from funds would be included in the transfer. The County Attorney indicated that since the interest was kept in separate account and clearly outlined it would be consider as part of the corpus of the fund.

Dave expressed his surprise that the request letter upon receipt had not been distributed to the rest of the Commission prior to the meeting and the County Attorney had been consulted without a list of potential legal considerations that other Commissioners might have.

Dave then asked about the copy right and publication rights to the original manuscript. Do we know who owns this and is that included in the transfer of funds to the Historical Society? Does the bequest specifically address the Historical Society or are there other community museums that might be eligible?

Elizabeth said that she had communicated with Estate heir and that the funds should go to a community museum dedicated to the history of **Decorah and the County**, which the Historical Society notes in their request letter is their objective. Elizabeth, and others, thought the Historical Society is the only organization that meets the requirement and there was concurrence from other Commissioner that that seems to be the case.

Roger requested that Dave prepare a list of his questions for submittal. Dave said he has the list in front of him, holding up the paper with the list, but would formalize it and e-mail it to the Commission as whole for comments and/or other potential questions that others might have. Dave did say he would cross out the question regarding other potential community museums that might fit within the context of the bequest and submit a list to the Commission as per Roger's request, instead of going through each one at the meeting.

Steve, Elizabeth, and Dave agreed that with the Commission's approval and after the list of questions were reviewed they would meet with the County Attorney and get his opinions. Roger moved to table the topic until after legal consultation. Terri seconded the motion. It was approved unanimously.

The next topic was the National Alliance of Preservation Commissions caucus in Des Moines this summer. Steve noted this is in July and wondered if anyone would be attending. Dave mentioned he would be but not as a Commission member. Others expressed interest and would consult their schedules. Dave noted that this is a national conference and it would be pricey, but it is unlikely Iowa would host a NAPC conference again in the foreseeable future.

Steve reported on his telephone conversation with Dean Thompson regarding an exhibit/display on the courthouse. It could be displayed at the courthouse and at the fair in July. This would tie-in well with the future courthouse restoration. The WCHS has expressed interest with assisting with putting it together. Dean was excited about this idea. (SLJ)

Locations for future meetings were discussed. Ferneva thought it would be nice to have a meeting in Burr Oak, noting historic features of note that week could

visit. The consensus was that this is a good idea. *Ferneva volunteered to arrange for a May meeting in Burr Oak that would include visiting the old bank structure that houses the informational center, and a tour of the museum. Steve reported that our April monthly meeting will be at the new Courthouse Annex. (SLJ)*

The last agenda item under new business was the discussion of holding a regional workshop. There was general discussion with everyone thinking it would be a great idea. Steve reported that May is Historic Preservation Month. (SLJ)

There was discussion on the date for the April Monthly Meeting. Terri had a conflict for Saturday, April 14th. It was decided by the group to reschedule the April Monthly Meeting to Saturday, April 7th, 8:30 am at the new Courthouse Annex. (SLJ)

Adjourned at 10:10.