

Fort Madison Historic Preservation Commission

February 2, 2015

City Hall Council Chambers

Present: Chairman Bob Morawitz, Andy Andrews, Dianna Holmes, Marie Brady-Whitcanack, Phyllis Brummitt, Dan Reppert, and John Luna-City Representative.

Guests: Mark Lair and Todd Schneider

Chairman Morawitz called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m.

A motion to approve the Agenda with the following amendments: add under New Business-CLG Report and SS Mary's and Joseph remodel was made by Andy Andrews, seconded by Dan Reppert. Approved.

The minutes January 12, 2015 were moved for approval by Dan Reppert, seconded by Phyllis Brummitt. Approved.

There was no change in the Treasurer's Report for \$6,796.20. John Luna reported the plaque for Gwen Brown would be presented during the first April City Council meeting for her service.

CORRESPONDENCE

All members acknowledged receiving several e-mails in reference to the commission. Minimal discussion in reference to the Iowa Historical Preservation Awards in Iowa City was expressed.

OLD BUSINESS

1. The Park to Park District Update:

- House at 524 Ave E built in the late 1800's was razed in the district.
- Signage and street signs for the district are being researched.
- Letters need to be sent to residence owners in the new residential district.
- Seminar for residents needs to be developed to discuss the benefits and suggestions to maintain their homes in a historical fashion.
- Historical district ordinance needs to be developed for the city to adopt for maintenance of the district.
- Need to identify a way to review acceptable changes to homes in the district.
- Need to identify ways to raise money to support activities needed for the new district.

2. Endangered Property: Clemens Funeral Home building windows are being boarded for safety until possible demolition or purchase per John Luna.

3. No demolition permits have been received. It was noted, the city has no demolition application available. Andy Andrews moved for Bob Morawitz to design an application for the city, seconded by Marie Brady-Whitcanack. Approved.

Bob Morawitz indicated the city needs guidelines for demolition of historical property and non-contributing properties within the historical districts. A list of historical properties and landmarks will be accumulated for the city.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Review/Approve Tax Credits for Schneider Development (1812 Ave F)—Tabled.

2. The Old FM Middle School was placed on the National Historical List on Jan. 22, 2015. Mr. Schneider requested Solar Panels to be placed on the west end of the property. After discussion, Andy Andrews moved, “The Fort Madison Historic Preservation Commission with the latest information furnished by the State Historic Preservation Office and National Park Service on the correct installations of solar panels on National Register Historic Buildings that indicate that solar panels are to be hidden from view from the streets and parking lots adjacent to the buildings; so will defer the ruling on Historical Tax Credits to the State Historic Preservation Office for their ruling on the request.” Seconded by Dan Reppert. Approved.
3. Commission reviewed a proposal by owners of 813 Ave G for the replacement of front windows from 2 pane to 4 pane. Using Design Guidelines for the Business Historical District, Andy Andrews moved to accept the proposed window style. Seconded by Marie Brady-Whitcanack. Approved.
4. CLG Report is due to the state. John Luna took the information from the commission members.
5. Dianna Holmes requested input on the “Gathering Space” for the SS Mary’s & Joseph’s church which is on the National Historical List and part of the new district. Members agreed no interior restrictions are on record for historical buildings just exterior; however, it was noted members hope the remodel will reflect the period of the building.

Andy Andrews noted an update for the monies collected for the purchase of the Old Fort Battle Field Site. There will be a meeting on Feb. 19 at 10am at the NLCHS Museum. The Iowa State Archeology supports this effort to purchase this site.

Motion for adjournment at 7:13 p.m. by Andy Andrews and seconded by Phyllis Brummitt. Next scheduled meeting is Monday, March 9, 2015 at 5:30 p.m. City Council Chambers.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dianna Holmes, Commission Member