

Historic Preservation Commission Minutes
Thursday August 27, 2009
Waverly Public Library Conference Room 5:30 p.m.

Members Present: James Hundley, Mary Meyer, Kathryn Payne, Karen Lehmann, Erika Lindgren, Les Zelle, Geneva Liebau

Members Absent: none

Council Absent: Cyndi Ecker

Also present: Beth Paulsen, Sarah Meyer-Reyerson

Visitor: Tom Hicks, Jere Vyverberg, Roger Wilcox

.Call to order at 5:34 p.m. by Payne

Regular Business:

1. Discussion of FEMA Memorandum of Agreement for Irving Elementary School's historic loss to the community.

Wilcox stated the inability to refurbish Irving Elementary.

Meyer-Reyerson stated that FEMA buyout requires that the property be demolished.

Consideration was made to support a renovation of the Junior High in compensation.

Wilcox stated that at one time various local veterans groups considered renovating the Junior High but that those groups were now exploring other locations.

Vyverberg stated that various local non-profits are frequently in need of office space, meeting space, kitchen facilities, etc.

A group called "Community Housing Initiatives may be considering a renovation of the Junior High for senior citizens based on its location and size.

Visitor asked if the gym of the Junior High is currently in use. Wilcox stated that the floor was replaced with a floating washable floor and is in use.

Lehmann asked about available parking.

Vyverberg stated that the green space across the street towards Walgreens is still owned by the school district and could be converted to parking space.

Payne asked if the school district might be in favor of maintaining the Junior High after the new building is complete. Vyverberg stated no, but that they were not in favor of it being torn down, nor do they want it empty. As well, Vyverberg stated that the building has been well maintained and may need a new roof in 5-10 years.

Vyverberg will meet again with FEMA on Tuesday September 1st, 2009.

Discussion took place on the options available to the school district regarding the Irving property once the building is demolished.

Vyverberg stated that the school district will remain as the property owner, but will have the option of deeding it to the city or other interested parties.

Payne asked if soil and land viability has been researched.

Vyverberg stated that more will be done before determining the potential use of the property, as the building and foundation must all be removed and refilled. As well, he stated that there may be tributaries running under the property.

Discussion occurred regarding the potential requests for the Irving MOA. Interest was shown in pursuing further surveys of the Southwest quadrant for a potential historic district and National Historic Register nominations for potential individually eligible homes in the Southwest quadrant of Waverly. It seems this is not an option to include in the MOA requests between the city and FEMA for buyout homes.

Since there is not time to contact the homeowners in the SW district regarding their interest in being nominated for the National Historic Register, guidelines were laid out to pursue nominations based first on age of the property and then on interest by the property owners.

While the survey done by Iowa Homeland security did not find justification for a Southwest Historic District in the SW quadrant of Waverly, the commission believes that this opinion was based on architecture and left out the significance of the SW quadrant to the history of Waverly itself. Thus, the commission would like to see a survey done on this area, namely Bremer Ave to 5th Ave. SW and First St SW to Fourth Street SW (both sides of the street). Since Irving is in the SW quadrant it seems fitting to include this project in the Irving MOA with FEMA.

Hundley made a motion that the MOA project request for Irving elementary read as follows:

Conduct a full survey of southwest Waverly and if eligible, nominate this area as an historic district, including individually NRHP-eligible properties within this district. The commission believes that there is a great deal of supporting information to qualify this area as an historic district under criteria A – historic events, trends, and developments. Southwest Waverly is also where Irving Elementary is located.

This was seconded by Payne

Yes: 7

No: 0

Absent: 0

The city MOA with FEMA was revised as follows:

We have been asked to prioritize our individual National Register nominations for southwest Waverly, and so the Waverly Historic Preservation Commission has requested that we first survey and nominate individually NRHP-eligible homes in the southwest quadrant of Waverly, within the boundaries of 1st Street SW to 4th Street SW (both sides of the street) and Bremer Avenue to 5th Avenue SW. These NRHP-eligible properties will be selected based on the homeowner's interest, followed by surveys and nominations beginning with the oldest homes first.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Historic Marker Project – Bremer Avenue Bridge Marker

Meyer –Reyerson stated that the marker is in progress with Mehman Monuments.

2. Meyer-Reyerson recommended that the commission suspend applications for the fall of nominations for the Waverly Historic Register.

Payne agreed that it should be tabled.

Vote:

Yes: 7

NO: 0

Absent: 0

Staff Report: Meyer-Reyerson stated that Rod Scott is talking about possible HUD funding for moving homes.

Meyer-Reyerson stated that the city council voted to repair the Rail Trail Bridge. Meyer-Reyerson requested further information or confirmation of contact information to be made available regarding the Commissioner Roster on the webpage. She will contact member via email for more information.

The next meeting is scheduled for 5:30 p.m., September 24th, 2009 in the conference room of the Waverly Public Library.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.