

## **MEETING MINUTES for July 27, 2020**

### **Waverly Historic Preservation Commission**

The Waverly Historic Preservation Commission met on **Monday, July 27**, at 5:15 pm in a Zoom online format.

1. Call to Order: Roll Call: Chair Karen Lehmann, Vice-Chair Kris Brunkhorst, Commissioners Glenn Fenneman, Don Meyer, Mary Meyer, Mary Ventullo.
2. Adopt the Agenda: Moved by Don Meyer, seconded by Mary Ventullo.
3. Approve Previous Minutes (June 22, 2020, taken by D. Meyer): Moved by Mary Ventullo, seconded by Glenn Fenneman.
4. Receive Visitors/Public Comments : Welcomed pending new commissioner Darius Robinson, who joined the meeting by phone. Guest Gina Mackamul was present on behalf of the Bremer County Historical Society Museum to talk about saving the memorial to Abe Downing, a racehorse who is currently buried on property that is part of the Red Fox Inn (which now belongs to the City). The museum would like the commission to consider how to treat this piece of Waverly history (see New Business #2).

#### **Regular Business:**

1. Boost Co. follow-up actions:<sup>[[[</sup> Portfolio is available at:  
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1wqw8BUO4vKP5NFVECeUtz3BeGQJIuA92/view?usp=sharing>
- a. Mission statement usage/logos and other recommendations from Wartburg Public Relations Class project:. The commission voted to approve this mission statement:  
***The mission of the Waverly Historic Preservation Commission (WHPC) is to recognize, preserve, promote, and safeguard sites and districts of historic and cultural significance in order to educate citizens and visitors and to foster pride for the city of Waverly, Iowa.***
- <sup>[[[</sup><sub>SEP]</sub>b. Upgrading the logo with a representative old building or bolder image: Kris Brunkhorst created a Google doc with the pictures Zach Brunkhorst (Wartburg Digital Media major) took for this and which includes examples of logos of other commissions. She has a Wartburg student who will use an Adobe graphic design program and try to mock up a logo. Karen will contact Prison Industries one more time about whether it is possible to pay to use the copyrighted house graphic already on the City's brown historic district signs.
- c. Poster maps schedule to sell, table tents/books, calendar, and other projects to pursue: <sup>[[[</sup><sub>SEP]</sub>We need to finish or narrow down projects for a manageable list as per annual goals. A

subcommittee will be formed to pursue the table tents for businesses, after Don contacts restaurants and Chamber to see if they are interested. Discussion was held about creating table tents of each business with a modern day photo on one side and/or historic information on the other.

2. Annual Report to Waverly City Council presented by Karen on June 22: A summary of accomplishments went to all commissioners. <sup>SEP</sup>

3. America in Bloom national funding opportunity, via July 1 zoom meeting: Karen, Kris, Don and Bill Werger met with two AIB representatives, who asked many questions about historic preservation, preservation sites and structures, and even some park, tourism, and garden club questions.

4. Waverly preservation awards pending<sup>SEP</sup>:

a. Crosspoint Church: notification and publicity in progress. Kris had created and Mary and Karen contributed to the award information for Crosspoint Church in a collaborative Google doc including pictures and information of the renovation, current day, and past. The commission voted to add Crosspoint to the Waverly Historic Register. Kris will contact them to inform them and then Karen will then add it on the website. Future discussion will be held about guidelines for paying for award plaques after website updates and clarification are concluded.

b. Rod and Bonnie Drenkow property: Don is assisting them with an application.

c. Other properties were suggested and Mary M. will investigate their history. A question was brought up if all places with awards are included on the website. Karen will check with Sarah Meyer-Reyerson, our former city liaison, on missing details and get everything updated. We will shoot for a May 2021 Preservation Month launch for handing out new plaques/awards.

5. Discussion about Iowa SHPO grant opportunity: CLG grant and application are due in August. We feel we should give this grant some attention and perhaps apply next year for a project such as the application for a NE Historic District, which would require a portion of matching funds from the City. The needed amount would depend on whether one large district is proposed or several smaller ones. Don Meyer will explore with Rebecca McCarley, Spark Consulting, who completed the drive-by survey, on costs and options. Guest Gina Mackamul noted that the Bremer County Historical Society Museum did apply and receive a grant for their Engineering Study on the wall/foundation issue.

6. Other 2020 Action Plan activities to pursue: planning the next forum, award presentations, activities for May Preservation Month, and Farmer's Exchange Grand Opening. [SEP] Additionally, perhaps something for Iowa History Month in March.

7. Other old or new business: [SEP]

New Business #1: Paul Cheville from the City has been storing paper items from the Farmer's Exchange Building at the old recycling center, but is losing the space. He needs ideas on where the items can be moved. Discussion was held about the historical value of some of the materials. Commissioners suggested Andy Bell look at them since he thought some items give evidence of early transportation, river, ag, and economic history, and could be used in grant writing and/or could be formally displayed in the FE building. Guest Gina Mackamul said she would check to see if the museum had room to store them in a location in the basement of the building.

New Business #2: Commissioners made a motion to make the City aware of the situation with the Abe Downing grave and that we would like to aid the Historical Society Museum in creating a memorial of some sort in a safer/non-construction zone location. The horse came from the Willow Lawn Farms, which is close to the Red Fox Inn, but also ran on the former racetrack by Kid's Kingdom Park. Isaac Pezley, our city liaison, will investigate this and report back. Unanimous vote to approve.

New Business #3: The wording for the preservation awards on our website is not clear.

1. Historic Preservation Award is typically for houses and receives a framed certificate.
2. Waverly Historic Register is typically for buildings or sites of historic significance, and may receive a bronze plaque. Commissioners were urged to go to the website and read the descriptions, guidelines, and nomination forms to see if they should be changed or improved. It was decided that both awards should include the word Waverly in front of their name and that the website and forms will be updated. It was also suggested that a poster for the Kuethe and Sturdevant houses should be created to add to our collection of posters for display. Karen noted that past commissioners had discussed adding a new award category: Vanished Properties of Waverly—an award for places/spaces not here anymore but worthy of note. Karen, Kris, and Mary M. will work on criteria for this category to suggest at a later meeting.

## **Reports:**

Council Report—Brian Birgen:

- The council voted to demolish and replace an old maintenance garage at the cemetery. It was 75 years old but of no historical significance, therefore our commission was not notified.
- Brian asked for clarification on houses in the Historic Districts and if that dictated how a person could fix up their house. Don Meyer reminded him that Waverly has no preservation guidelines and it only matters if they wish to apply for federal tax credits. FAQs on this issue are on the HP website.
- Members asked about the Green Bridge demolition and progress on a memorial piece or span for a display/sculpture. Nothing has been decided, but Brian will remind them that the commission is interested in seeing this happen, as per an earlier resolution sent to council on this topic.

Staff Report—Isaac Pezley: Anyone interested in becoming a commissioner or continuing on a commission is asked to fill out an online application made available by the mayor on the city’s website. A link to this form has also been added to the HPC “Commission Directory” page.

Chairperson Report—None. Karen Lehmann called for <sup>[[SEP]]</sup>ADJOURNMENT. <sup>[[SEP]]</sup>

The next meeting is scheduled for **August 24, at 5:30 pm** via Zoom. **NOTE NEW TIME.**

Secretary rotation: Aug.-Fenneman, Sept.-D. Meyer, Oct.-M. Meyer, Nov.-D. Robinson, Dec.-M. Ventullo. <sup>[[SEP]]</sup>

Respectfully Submitted—Kris Brunkhorst acting secretary for July.