

Unapproved Minutes
Historical Preservation Commission
Wednesday August 7, 2019 Regular Meeting

The regular meeting of the Vermillion Historical Preservation Commission was called to order in the Mamura Conference Room at City Hall on August 7, 2019 at 9:00 a.m.

1. Roll Call

Present: Susan Keith Gray, Gloria Hensley, Ed Gerrish, Jim Wilson, William Dendinger

Absent: Dietrik Vanderhill, Cyndy Chaney

Staff present: John Prescott, City Manager

James Purdy, Assistant City Manager

Jose Dominguez, City Engineer

2. Adoption of the Agenda

Commissioner Hensley moved that the Commission adopt the agenda, seconded by Commissioner Dendinger. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Approval of the Minutes

3a. Commissioner Hensley moved that the June 5th minutes be adopted with corrections, seconded by Commissioner Dendinger. The motion carried unanimously.

3b. Commissioner Dendinger moved that the July 31st minutes be adopted with corrections, seconded by Commissioner Wilson. The motion carried unanimously.

4. Visitors to be Heard

None

5. Old Business

James Purdy passed out a press release that will be issued regarding the City's designation as a Certified Local Government (CLG).

5a. Report of Preserve Iowa Summit (Susan and John)

5b. Discussion of Historic Properties and Commission Involvement

5C. Report of South University Area Survey

5d. Discussion of Guidelines for Historic Neighborhood Permit Applications

5a. John Prescott states that the conference was informative. John has inquired with Clay County about the ability to mark historic buildings/districts in the County surveying software. Susan Gray discussed the keynote speaker of the event, and reported that she also attended a grant writing workshop.

5b. Some members of the Commission were able to tour the historic Thompson house. The University Foundation, which owns the home, does

not have plans for the building as of yet. The home needs a significant amount of funding for any restoration. Some of the suggestions for use of the building at this point have been using it as a guest house, or to use the stone as a monument to the Thompson family if the home is torn down.

The Commission also discussed the current proposal being considered for the Clay County Courthouse. Both the Clay County Historic Preservation Commission and the Vermillion Historic Preservation Commission will write letters to the courthouse committee, stating that they are concerned about the future of the current historic courthouse, and would like to be periodically updated on the developments of the proposed project.

5c. No update; the report has not yet been completed.

5d. The Commission discussed the need to develop guidelines/suggestions in order to help guide homeowners and contractors with maintaining and/or restoring the historical integrity of contributing structures in Vermillion. Ed Gerrish passed out documents with helpful information regarding rehabilitating older buildings and tax incentives. Susan Gray stated that she would like there to be a process where the Commission can be connected with buyers of historical structures in Vermillion. Jim Wilson suggested giving addressed postcards to realtors and title companies that they could mail to the Commission with the contact information of the new owners.

The Commission also discussed if there are additional items or questions that need to be added to the City's building permit application. Jim Wilson stated that it is important that the City and Commission ensure that the clock on the permit review process doesn't start until the application is deemed to be complete and accepted by the building official. There was also a discussion regarding the type of work that can take place prior a building permit has been issued.

The Commission also discussed the possibility of permitting roofing or siding for historic structures. John Prescott stated that the idea of permitting roofing and siding has been presented in the past for the City as a whole, and was not well received by the public.

6. New Business

- 6a. Process/Timeline for Renewal/Replacement of Commission Members
- 6b. Upcoming Meeting Dates

6a. Three appointments expire in 2019. The Commission members will need to submit letters of interest to the City if they wish to have their term renewed. The appointments will be made by the City Council in September.

6b. Meetings for the next year will remain the first Wednesday of every month at 9:00 am.

7. Adjourn

Moved by Commissioner Gerrish to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Hensley. Motion carried at 10:20 a.m.

Vermillion Historical Preservation Commission