



# Charles City Historic Preservation Commission Minutes



June 19, 2023, 5:30 pm, 401 North Main St.

**Members Present:** Chair Carol Frye, Jason Webster, Mike Bauer, Mckenna Lloyd, Laura Wallace, Christopher Anthony, Phoebe Pittman, Student Advisor Alexuz Ohlendorf and Commission Secretary Mark Wicks. Also present Larry Michehl, Not present: Student Advisors Xander Graeser and Bryce Walker.

Meeting called to order by Chair Frye at 5:30 p.m., with introductions made and everyone shared a good news item. ***Motion by Anthony and second by Wallace to approve the agenda. All approved.*** Approval of the **Minutes from the May 3, 2023**, Commission meeting was ***motioned by Webster and seconded by Lloyd. All approved.***

**Public comment period:** There were no public comments submitted

## OPEN COMMISSION SEATS/NOMINATION

Floyd County Museum Director **Mckenna Lloyd** has been officially appointed to the Commission, which leaves one open seat after Commission members Michael Barrigan and Mary Ann Townsend declined another 3-year term. At the Commission's direction Wicks invited **Larry Michehl** to come sit in and check out the group as a potential candidate. Michehl said he would be willing to serve if appointed by the Mayor, so Wicks will pass that along for official action at an upcoming City Council meeting.

## STUDENT ADVISORY TEAM ADDITION

Wicks and former Commission Chair Jeff Sisson interviewed six graduating eighth grade students on May 10<sup>th</sup> who were interested in joining the Commission's Student Advisory Team as the Class of 2027 representative. It was a difficult decision, with a number of impressive candidates, but **Alexuz Ohlendorf** was selected as the new Student Advisor and **Kati Haglund** as the Alternate in case Ohlendorf is unable to complete her term through high school.

## 2023 PRESERVE IOWA SUMMIT

Commission member Bauer and Wicks both attended the annual Preserve Iowa Summit **June 1-3 in Sioux City**. As part of our Certified Local Government (CLG) requirements, someone from Charles City needs to attend the Summit each year. Bauer and Wicks shared their takeaways from the Summit, calling it a beneficial experience.

## BUILDING MURALS

Discussion took place regarding a proposed postcard mural on the side of 401 Noeth Mian St. There has been some concern that the soft brick would be damaged if the paint was ever tried to be removed. Pittman said one idea has been to utilize a billboard on the wall to paint the mural on rather than doing it directly on the brick. The billboard style wouldn't last as long, but it would protect the brick behind it. The City will be taking a look at the wall to see if drilling holes for the billboard mount would cause issues. The Town of Colors mural committee is also continuing to look at other possible locations for the postcard mural. The Commission members agreed the side of 401 was a good location due to its visibility across from Central Park, but also agreed with protecting the structure.

## QR CODES PROJECT

Discussion was held on the proposed QR Codes project on historic properties that the public can use to find out more about the history of that building, see old photos of what it used to look like and direct people

to our HPC Website. Commission members agreed to **start looking into which buildings to feature to start out with, using the C.I.T.Y. tour list Main Street Charles City has as a starting point.** Wicks was asked to email that list out for Commission members to review. It was also suggested that the C.I.T.Y tour information be put on the HPC website.

#### WEBSITE UPDATE

The Commission was informed that our website management costs with WIX has doubled, following the expiration of the price discount we used to originally set it up. A recommendation was made to **look at other possible options** that might be less expensive.

#### OTHER BUSINESS

- **Historic Puzzles** ... The second in our set of historic image puzzles is now available and for sale. It was recommended that we try and **promote it on the radio**, as well as talk about the new Facebook page.
- **Commission Photo** ... Wicks reminded the group that we still need a Commission photo to post on the website. It was agreed that pick a date, time and place and have everyone come for a quick photo. In front of the Arts Center was suggested. Wicks will check out what the best time of day is lighting wise. Tuesdays or Fridays after 8:15 a.m. were said to be the best times. Wicks will find out what day everyone might be available.
- Anthony shared a story on the **Carlinville, Ill., Courthouse** from the 1860s that he recently visited. It was the third largest courthouse in Illinois at the time and the project was never fully completed.
- Lloyd shared information on **Heritagefest** that the Museum is planning on July 29<sup>th</sup> and invited the **Commission to have a booth** at, possibly to sell puzzles. We could also promote awareness of the Commission's website, Facebook page and other resources. Some interest was expressed at looking into that. Wicks will send out an **email with a volunteer schedule** to see if we can fill it.

The **next meeting** was set for 5:30 p.m. on August 15, at 401 North Main.

Being no further business, the **meeting was adjourned at 6:41 p.m. following a motion by Webster and second by Lloyd. All Approved.**

- *Minutes respectfully submitted by Mark Wicks*