

Charles City

Historic Preservation Commission Minutes

Tuesday, March 30, 2021, 4:00 pm, via videoconference call

Members Present: Carol Frye, Jennifer Lessin, Jennier Thiele, Laura Wallace, MaryAnn Townsend, Phoebe Pittman, Jeff Sisson and Director Mark Wicks. Mike Bauer was also in attendance.

Meeting called to order by Vice-Chair Frye at 4:00 p.m. ***Motion by Townsend and second by Lessin to approve the agenda. All approved.*** Approval of the **Minutes from the March 9, 2021**, Commission meeting was ***motioned by Townsend and seconded by Lessin. All approved.***

Public comment period: None

Commission Appointment/Re-appointments

The terms of Sisson, Wallace and Frye all expired on January 1, 2021. Wallace and Frye agreed to continue serving and were re-appointed by Mayor Dean Andrews. Sisson, however, elected to step down. Mayor Andrews has appointed Jennifer Thiele, the current Floyd County Historical Museum Director, to replace Sisson. All three terms will run through January 1, 2024.

Election of Commission Chair and Vice-Chair

With Sisson stepping down, the Commission needed to elect a new chairperson and vice-chair. Current Vice-Chair Carol Frye was nominated to serve as Commission Chair in a motion by Townsend, which was seconded by Wallace. All approved. There were no nominations at this time for Commission Vice-Chair and the group was asked to think about it and let Wicks know if they had any questions.

Student Advisory Members

Sisson and Pittman reported the Middle School has given permission to hold Student Advisory Team interviews on the second floor outdoor patio to allow for proper social distancing. Sisson is working with Ryan Rahmiller to put together some dates for interviewing students interested in being part of a Student Advisory Team to the Historic Preservation Commission. He noted this will be the first such student advisory group working with an HPC. Sisson said three Commission representatives will be needed to help conduct the student interviews. Frye and Townsend volunteered along with Sisson, who said he would help out unless another Commission member stepped forward.

Historic Preservation Awareness Month

Pittman said the task force of Sisson, Townsend and herself met to discuss a number of ideas that the Commission could do in May for National Historic Preservation Awareness Month. The idea they liked the best was to do a **weekly write-up in the local newspaper focusing on the history of Lions Field** as this is the 100th anniversary of the Charles City Lions Club this year. Sisson will talk to the Charles City Press to see what we might be able to do. He said Lions Field was originally a quarry, then a fairgrounds before the Lions bought it. It was suggested that the photos and link to the write-ups also be promoted on social media.

Wicks will take care of getting a **Mayoral proclamation** in May for National Historic Preservation Awareness Month. He also said Commission member Christopher Anthony has agreed to work with him on finishing up the **HPC Website** in time for the May awareness campaign.

Historic Preservation Passport

Michael Bauer was on the meeting call to talk about an **Historic Preservation Passport** that he picked up in Minnesota and wondered if something similar could be done to promote Charles City and Floyd County

history and attractions? It included fun facts, statistics, sports, history and pictures from the State of Minnesota. The Commission seemed to like the idea and wondered if it was not more of a Tourism Committee project that the Historic Preservation Commission could assist with as needed? ***Wicks said he would show the Passport to the Tourism Coordinator to take to her committee to see if there was any interest.***

Other Business

- **Railroad Depot Update** ... The Save the Depot group has raised \$340,000 of its \$350,000 goal to raise up and relocate the historic railroad
- **Preserve Iowa Summit** ... Wicks reminded everyone that the 2021 Preserve Iowa Summit will be held June 3-5 in Council Bluffs. The Commission must make sure we have a Charles City representative in attendance all 3 days and that doesn't necessarily have to be the same person. There will also be at least some virtual offerings by the sounds of it so those that can't attend in person can get in on some of the offerings.
- **In-Person Meetings** ... The group was asked if it wanted to start getting back to in-person meetings or not, or even a hybrid in-person/virtual meeting? It was agreed to hold the next meeting in person with a virtual option.

The **next meeting** was set for April 27, 2021, at 4 p.m. ***Wicks was to check with Anthony to see if there was a better time that would work for him to participate.***

Being no further business, the ***meeting was adjourned at 4:38 p.m. following a motion by Townsend and second by Wallace. All Approved.***

- *Minutes respectfully submitted by Mark Wicks*