

Charles City

Historic Preservation Commission Minutes

Wednesday, June 16, 2021, 5 pm, via videoconference call

Members Present: Chair Carol Frye, Jennifer Lessin, Jennifer Thiele, MaryAnn Townsend, Christopher Anthony and Director Mark Wicks.

Meeting called to order by Chairman Frye at 5:33 p.m. ***Motion by Anthony and second by Lessin to approve the agenda. All approved.*** Approval of the **Minutes from the April 27, 2021**, Commission meeting was ***motioned by Lessin and seconded by Thiele. All approved.***

Public comment period: There were no public comments submitted

Student Advisory Update

Frye said she, Wicks and Jeff Sisson interviewed four students finishing up their eighth grade year who were interested in the new HPC Student Advisory Board being created. They visited with Alex Fernandez, Evan Leerar, Everett Schmitt and Xander Graeser. Frye said all four young men were very impressive. Ultimately Graeser was selected as the initial Student Advisory member and he will begin working with the Commission as the freshman representative when school resumes in the fall. The plan is to select a graduating eighth grader each year until we have a freshman, sophomore, junior and senior class representative, with student advisors moving up each year. The Commission hopes to work hand-in-hand with the Student Advisory members on all matters to provide youthful insight, ideas, perspective and energy. In addition it is hoped this fosters a better understanding and enthusiasm in younger generations as to the significance and importance of historic preservation and preserving our heritage.

Historic Preservation Month Report

The task force of Townsend, Jeff Sisson and Phoebe Pittman came up with historic photos of Lions Field and worked with James Grob from the Charles City Press to do a feature on the **history of Lions Field for Historic Preservation Awareness Month in May** as this is the Lions Club's 100th anniversary. Wicks also arranged for a **Mayoral Proclamation**, while he and Anthony are still working on finishing up the new **Charles City Historic Preservation Website**. Anthony has been delayed by a busy schedule and moving things off of his old computer. He mentioned that project might be a good one for the new Student Advisor to get involved and help out with. He also asked ***any Commission member who hasn't emailed Wicks their bio and mugshot yet to please do so.***

Preserve Iowa Summit Report

Commission members who attended the virtual Preserve Iowa Summit June 3-5 provided feedback on the conference and what they learned. Lessin, Frye, Townsend, Anthony and Thiele all participated in at least one of the virtual Summit sessions, while Wicks attended sessions all three days. He has 13 pages of notes that are available for the asking to anyone interested. Lessin mentioned **learnwebskills.com** has historical information and count histories. Anthony said we don't have a **Commission Logo** and that is something we could discuss and consider.

Wildwood Clubhouse Update

There has been no updates from the City on the status of the Wildwood Clubhouse repair. At last report they were still waiting for a structural expert to come in and advise them on if the crumbling foundation can be saved or not. Frye noted that the former Sherman Nursery property, which is on the National Register

of Historic Places, has been sold to the Rottinghaus Family and “we may need to keep an eye on what happens with that moving forward.”

Save the Depot Update

Wicks reported that the Save the Depot Task Force had hit its \$350,000 fundraising goal to get the historic railroad depot moved to a new site and foundation. That foundation work should occur in July and the building move is anticipated for early September. After that the task force will focus on Phase II plans and fundraising to renovate the structure for reuse.

Other Business

- **Commission Vice-Chair** ... Wicks said the Commission needs to elect a Vice-Chair to back-up Frye in case she is absent. Christopher Anthony offered to serve if nominated. ***Motion by Townsend to nominate Anthony as Vice-Chair, which was seconded by Lessin. All approved.***
- **In-Person vs Virtual Meetings** ... The Commission was asked if it wanted to continue meeting virtually via videoconference call or if wanted to go back to in-person meetings? The group decided to ***meet in-person starting next meeting with a video call-in option.*** Frye mentioned she would be more comfortable meeting in person if everyone attending was vaccinated.

The **next meeting** was set for August 31, 2021, at 5:30 p.m.

Being no further business, the ***meeting was adjourned at 6:29 p.m. following a motion by Thiele and second by Anthony. All Approved.***

- *Minutes respectfully submitted by Mark Wicks*