



Charles City

## Historic Preservation Commission Minutes

Wednesday, June 22, 2022, 5:30 pm, 401 North Main St.



**Members Present:** Chair Carol Frye, Christopher Anthony, Jason Webster, Mike Bauer, Michael Barrigan and Commission Secretary Mark Wicks. Not present: Mary Ann Townsend, Laura Wallace, Phoebe Pittman and Student Advisors Xander Graeser and Bryce Walker.

Meeting called to order by Chair Frye at 5:30 p.m. ***Motion by Anthony and second by Barrigan to approve the agenda. All approved.*** Approval of the **Minutes from the April 20, 2022**, Commission meeting was ***motioned by Webster and seconded by Bauer. All approved.***

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

### Student Advisors

Anthony and Wicks reported on the **Student Advisor Interviews** held in May with eight graduating 8<sup>th</sup> graders who were interested in joining the Historic Preservation Commission as the Class of 2026 Student Advisor. He or she would be joining Class of 2025 Student Advisor Xander Graeser. They said it was an extremely good group of candidates to choose from and a joy to talk with. Ultimately it was decided to select **Bryce Walker** as our new Student Advisor, with Nolan Schmiedel as the Alternate should Walker become unable to serve for any reason. Anthony noted that all of the students credited teacher Ryan Rahmiller for sparking their interest in local history. Unfortunately Walker was unable to attend the meeting due to a prior commitment, but Wicks and Commission member Phoebe Pittman presented him with a certificate at the Middle School Awards Ceremony, as well as recognized Schmiedel as the Alternate.

Wicks reminded the Commission members that any or all of them are welcome to participate in the annual Student Advisor interview process, with Anthony commenting it was a “very enjoyable experience.”

### Preserve Iowa Summit Report

Bauer and Barrigan both attended the **2022 Preserve Iowa Summit in Mason City June 2-4** and provided highlights that they gleaned from the speakers and sessions. Bauer attended all three days, while Barrigan was at the Saturday sessions. Wicks was also scheduled to be at all three days but was stuck at home with COVID and unable to attend. He thanked Bauer and Barrigan for making sure Charles City had a representative on hand all three days and thus fulfilled our Certified Local Government requirement.

Bauer talked about the Mobile Iowa History Museum, and that “old is not equivalent to historic ... it depends on the historic integrity and significance.” He also learned about the Creative Place grant, Section 106 Reviews and the interesting process of how the Egloff House was saved. The keynote speaker talked about “Embracing Creative Reuse,” and how existing buildings should be considered as surviving artifacts. Another session talked about how to properly waterproof a building and make sure that it can still “breathe.”

Both He and Barrigan talked about the Fortepan Photo Archive, which is a digitized, searchable archive of family photos from all over the state. Based on a project begun in Belgium, Fortepan is catching on as well in the U.S. and there is a Fortepan Iowa archives now. The free system has over 14,000 photos to date and anyone can submit images or photo collections. They can be downloaded and used without a fee or permission required. Barrigan said it would be great for showing what Main Street used to look like or other images saved of life in the past. He noted the tornado, tractor factory or floods would also make interesting collection additions. It would be great for use by school students and something we could make the public aware of on our HPC Website. Wicks commented we need to let teachers like Rahmiller aware of this tool. People can volunteer to help review and tag images on the Fortepan site.

Barrigan also was intrigued with the history of the 1912 Locomotive displayed in East Park and the story behind it.

**Next year's Preserve Iowa Summit will be held in Sioux City.**

### Commission Website

Anthony reported on progress with the new Commission website. He and Wicks officially moved it off of the WIX development site to the paid WIX Pro hosting site and bought the Domain name **historycharlescityia.org**. Anthony will continue to tweak and add to the new site, but was hopeful that one or both of the Student Advisors might be interested in assisting him.

### Commission Logo

Anthony went over the revised Commission Logo design following suggestions at the previous meeting. ***Motion by Webster and second by Bauer to formally adopt the new Commission Logo for use. All approved.***

### Photo Puzzles

The Commission previously approved budgeting \$300 for purchasing a 100-piece Photo Puzzle of the historic Suspension Bridge as the first in a series of historical image puzzles to sell as an ongoing awareness project of our local historical treasures. Those photo puzzles were priced out at Unique Country Store at \$9.95 each to produce or for \$4-10 each, depending on size, at M Prints. Since then, he said he has heard from puzzle enthusiasts that a 100-piece puzzle wasn't as interesting to them as a 250-500 piece puzzle. Wicks priced out the larger puzzles, which will cost us \$15 or more each to produce. He was told by one retailer that the 10x13 inch, 100-piece photo puzzles are popular because they are easily framed if desired.

In addition, he and Anthony have been looking for a good **photo of the Suspension Bridge** to use. Two photo options were presented to the Commission, with members present preferring the one by Steve Schiller but wanting input as well from the missing Commission members. Wicks was asked to **email them out so that everyone has a chance to comment on which photo they like better, as well as the preferred puzzle size.**

Discussion was held on **when to release the photo puzzles**, especially if we want to do a series of them? It was decided to release one in the fall, prior to the holiday season, and the next in the spring ahead of the summer travel season.

### QR Codes

This item was tabled until Graeser could be present, as he has been looking into helping create QR Codes for historic buildings in town to tell their story and share historical images of that property. The Commission also would like new Student Advisor Walker to be involved in that discussion.

### History Trivia Night

Commission member Pittman has been talking to the local brewery about adding a History Trivia Night and as she was not able to attend this item was also tabled.

### Other Business

- Anthony reported he gave a pair of **presentations on Kit Homes** recently. He presented to the United Methodist Women on June 2<sup>nd</sup>, as well as the Senior Center on June 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- According to a new Economic Impact Report coming out on the 53 Main Street Iowa communities, Wicks said the **average age of housing stock** in those communities was built in the 1940s.
- Wicks also invited everyone to a **6 p.m. meeting July 12<sup>th</sup> at the Charles City NIACC Center** in which the results of the recent Business Survey and Consumer Survey done by Main Street Charles City will be shared with the public. Their input and suggestions will also be taken into consideration in forming strategies moving forward for business recruitment and retention.

- Webster displayed a vintage **key tag for baggage from the old Hildreth Hotel** that he found and purchased off of eBay.

The **next meeting** was tentatively set for August 10, 2022, at 5:30 p.m. at 401 North Main St. Wicks will contact the two Student Advisors to see what their summer schedule is like and if that date and time will work for them.

Being no further business, the ***meeting was adjourned at 7 p.m. following a motion by Anthony and second by Bauer. All Approved.***

- *Minutes respectfully submitted by Mark Wicks*