

**OFFICIAL MINUTES
MUSCATINE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
OCTOBER 15, 2008**

The Muscatine Historic Preservation Commission met in regular session on Wednesday, October 15, 2008 at 5:45 p.m. in the lower level conference room at the Muscatine City Hall, 215 Sycamore. Members present included Mary Anne Kessler, Ramiro Vazquez, Jane Reischauer and Dan Clark. Staff liaison Jim Rudisill was also present.

Since no officer was present, Rudisill called the meeting to order and requested a motion to appoint a temporary chair. This person would serve as chair until the meeting was adjourned.

Kessler moved to appoint Clark as temporary chair; Reischauer seconded; motion passed, all ayes.

Clark then assumed control of the meeting

The consent agenda, including the distributed meeting agenda and the minutes of the regular September 17, 2008 meeting, was reviewed. There were no additions to the agenda or changes to the minutes.

Reischauer moved to approve the consent agenda; Kessler seconded; motion passed, all ayes.

The first agenda item was the election of a new chair to replace Devin Pettit. Pettit presented his resignation during last month's meeting. However, since some commissioner members were missing, those at the meeting felt no election should be held.

Kessler moved to table this agenda item until the next meeting; Vazquez seconded; motion passed, all ayes.

The next agenda item was the Hershey Avenue survey. No commissioner reported any change from the previous month's report.

The commission next discussed the status of historic preservation funds with the Community Foundation of Muscatine. There are currently two separate accounts, although it is unknown if the assets all belong to the commission or to the Friends of Historic Preservation.

Clark asked Reischauer to look into the distribution of the funds.

Rudisill then updated the commission on the status of the digitized historic district surveys and nomination reports. The library has agreed to pay consultant Rebecca McCarley for the reports and will then place them on the library's website.

Sheila Chaudoin is coordinating the project for the library and Rudisill said Chaudoin and McCarley will likely communicate directly to each other in the future.

Rudisill also reminded commissioner members about the upcoming 2008 Annual Report. He will need each member's report on training and changes to any historic buildings (those individually listed or included in a recognized district) on the National Register.

Kessler next reported on local participation in the Preserve America grant program. She said Michael Maharry was apparently coordinating an application through the Friends of Historic Preservation.

The application will use the West Hill Historic District nomination as the key local project.

The commission next discussed a potential joint meeting with other Muscatine and Louisa County historic preservation organizations. Rudisill reported that Paula Mohr had emailed regrets that she would be unable to provide any individual training session in Muscatine.

She did report that Kathy Gourley of the State Historical Society of Iowa does conduct quarterly training meetings around the state and Muscatine could be included on that schedule. Rudisill was directly to contact Gourley for more information on a possible training meeting in 2009.

No formal committee reports were provided, although Reischauer and Kessler did present a Friends of Historic Preservation report. According to the two commissioners, The Friends are seeking a grant from the Community Foundation of Muscatine to publish 40 books on Muscatine historic rooftops. The publications are considered a fundraising project.

They also reported on efforts by the Friends to collaborate with the MHPC on the Preserve America program proposal.

Reischauer also reported the Grossheim house on East Eighth Street is currently up for sale.

The commission then discussed the issue of truck parking in a historic district. Rudisill reported there had been some complaints over truck parking in the West Hill Historic District and city administrator AJ Johnson had requested the commission to review the problem and possibly make a recommendation.

Reischauer said she thought she knew what had caused the initial complaints and believed the offending truck was no longer being parked in the area.

The consensus of the commission was not to develop any recommendation at this time, but reserve the option of developing a recommendation if the issue needed to be addressed in the future.

The next meeting of the commission will be held November 19, 2008

The commission then adjourned at approximately 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chair