

OFFICIAL MINUTES
MUSCATINE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
JULY 23, 2013

The Muscatine Historic Preservation Commission (MHPC) met in regular session on Tuesday, July 23, 2013, at 5:15 p.m. in the lower level conference room at Muscatine City Hall. Members present included Devin Pettit, Jim Schmidt, Julie Wolf and Rochelle Conway. Others present included Jim Rudisill. With the absence of Chair Jane Reischauer, Vice Chair Pettit opened the meeting. Following the roll, the commission reviewed the consent agenda, including the distributed agenda and the minutes of the regular June 25, 2013 meeting. Pettit pointed out the minutes incorrectly indicated the mezzanine level of the re-opened Button Factory restaurant will be operated as a speakeasy. It will be the mezzanine level of the former Hotel Muscatine that will contain the speakeasy. He also reported the correct address for the property for which a Historic Resources Development Program (HRDP) grant application has been completed should be 315 West Second, not 315 E. Second. After Pettit presented the corrections, Conway moved to approve the minutes as corrected; Wolf seconded; motion passed, all ayes.

The first agenda item under Certified Local Government (CLG) activity was the city's approved historic property tax abatement plan. Rudisill reported there was nothing new on the program. He said Muscatine Community Development Director Steve Boka was still planning to develop forms for the commission to incorporate into its approval process for applications submitted for qualifying historic properties.

The next issue discussed was staff assistance for the commission after Rudisill retires in September. Rudisill reported Boka would like perform that assistance on an interim basis until a more permanent liaison is established.

The next general agenda item was a discussion on historic districts and properties.

Rudisill reported there had been no new developments regarding the HRDP grant status on the Network to Freedom/National Register of Historic Places applications/update for the Alexander Clark House.

Kent Sissel had called earlier and said he planned to attend the meeting, but had not returned a later call from Rudisill to confirm.

The commission next discussed submitting a potential Certified Local Government application for funding a National Register of Historic Places nomination for the proposed Fair Oaks and/or Colver Street National Historic Districts. Both areas have been approved as potential districts by the State Historical Society of Iowa (SHSI), but SHSI CLG Coordinator Paula Mohr believes the proposed consultant costs that Rebecca McCarley submitted for a joint project may be too high.

Pettit suggested it may be better to wait on any decision to move forward until McCarley can provide revised individual district costs. The rest of the commission agreed and directed Rudisill to get the revised costs from McCarley and hold a special meeting if necessary to finalize a decision.

Miscellaneous reports were then presented to the commission.

Pettit reported Friends of Muscatine Historic Preservation had agreed to work with the owners of 315 W. Second on restoration of the house, using tax credits to conduct interior repairs on the building.

Rudisill reported the Green Thumbers building on Grandview was being demolished and work was continuing on the former VFW Building (425 Mulberry) to convert the upper stories to loft apartments.

Rudisill also reminded the commissioners of the upcoming historic preservation summit in Burlington in August; and that anyone who wished to attend should contact Boka for possible registration assistance.

The meeting then adjourned at approximately 5:55 p.m.

The next regular meeting of the commission is scheduled for Tuesday, August 27, 2013 at 5:15 p.m. in the Muscatine City Hall lower level conference room.

Respectfully submitted,

Chair

OFFICIAL MINUTES
MUSCATINE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
SPECIAL MEETING - JULY 29, 2013

The Muscatine Historic Preservation Commission (MHPC) met in special session on Monday, July 29, 2013, at 7:30 a.m. in the lower level conference room at Muscatine City Hall. Members present included Devin Pettit, Julie Wolf and Rochelle Conway. Others present included Michael Maharry and Jim Rudisill. With the absence of Chair Jane Reischauer, Vice Chair Pettit opened the meeting.

Following the roll, Pettit said the purpose of the meeting was whether or not to proceed to apply for a Certified Local Government grant to develop a National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) for one or two of the proposed historic districts in the Fair Oaks and Colver Street neighborhoods.

Rudisill reported on the revised costs provided by McCarley and the State Historical Society of Iowa's concerns over the anticipated higher costs to complete a joint application. The consensus of the commission favored going with a Fair Oaks nomination.

Maharry suggested a direct mailing to the residents of the proposed Fair Oaks Historic District be completed, along with an appeal to local businesses. He stressed the Fair Oaks area should include Weed Park, pointing out that area had better name recognition and additional facilities, such as the aquatic park and zoo garden.

Rudisill said he would talk with McCarley concerning changing the name on the NRHP nomination to the Weed Park Historic District to reflect the area's strong association to that site.

Wolf then moved to proceed with a CLG grant application for the (Fair Oaks) Weed Park Historic District; Conway seconded; motion passed, all ayes.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chair