

Minutes of Meeting
Historic Preservation Commission
Via Electronic Means
Zoom and City Website

January 4, 2021

ROLL CALL:

Board members present: Hurto, Reinheimer, Michener, Niskin

Board members absent:

Staff Present: Erin Chambers, Director of Community Development

Others: Erin Yeager, Newton Main Street
Evelyn George, Newton City Council

Chair Hurto called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM. Chair welcomed those present at the meeting and wished everyone a Happy New Year.

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, Chair Larry Hurto questioned if there was anyone present that may require special assistance in being able to participate in this public meeting. There was no response.

Approval of the Agenda. Motion by Reinheimer, **seconded** by Niskin to approve the agenda for the current meeting. Voice Vote: 4-0, approved.

Certification of Iowa Open Meetings Law: Chambers confirms.

Approval of the Previous Meeting of December 7, 2020. Minutes of previous meeting were reviewed and approved with corrections. **Motion** by Reinheimer, **seconded** by Niskin, Approved as corrected, 4-0.

Corrections: Page 2, line 9: “to” to “of Barthelman...”; line 12: “sorty” to “story”; line 15: “piling” to “polling”; reword sentence #3 of paragraph 4; delete extra words from Item b. under “Items from Citizens”; reword sentence 2 of Item b. paragraph under “Items from Citizens”; line 26 “repiared” to “repaired.”

Michener joined meeting at 1:13 PM.

Communications from State Historic Preservation Office.

- 12/21/2020 letter from SHPO: information regarding the CLG grant. Chambers commented on the letter.
- 1/4/2021 Email from SHPO: Rural Revitalization Grant opening.

Items from City Staff.

- a. **CLG Annual Report.** Chambers reviewed and described the need for training reports.
- b. **Fred Maytag Park – Maytag Bowl.** Chambers and Hurto introduced discussion regarding letter from Beth Talbot Larson from Brainard, MN, inquiring about a bronze plaque dedicated to J.

Reed Fugard to be placed on the Maytag Bowl. \$100 was offered to the effort. Chambers shared information from the Newton Parks Division. Niskin commented on the importance of maintaining a consistent design and how she believes in uniformity and identity across the community. Discussion on funding and prioritizing. Reinheimer shared concerns regarding available funding and the value of finishing current projects before moving forward with anything else. Chambers described current projects and available resources. Hurto agreed. Niskin commented on fundraising efforts. Discussion about partnership with Main Street. Niskin suggested music-related type fundraising events.

Items from the Commission.

Michener. Shared information regarding downtown plaques. No Commissioners had yet heard from Ken. Consensus reached to follow-up with Ken.

Niskin. Comments relating to coloring books and how delighted she was with them. Mentioned that an individual from Grinnell (Cheryl Neubert) described how fortunate Newton is to have a staff. Niskin shared that the day was her 93rd birthday (!!!).

Reinheimer. No business to present.

Hurto. No business to present.

Items from Citizens.

Evelyn George, Newton City Council. Described her curiosity regarding the Maytag Bowl and proposed plaque. Offered her thanks to all Commissioners for their commitment and service to Newton.

Erin Yeager, Newton Main Street, provided information regarding a meeting with a new downtown business, Farmhouse Creations, 107 1st Avenue West.

Commission Annual Business.

- a. Discussion on possible replacements for Ken Barthelman's position on the commission. Chambers requested suggestions for possible replacement and described process to fill the vacancy.
- b. Michener unanimously approved (4-0) to continue serving as the Main Street representative.
- c. **Motion** by Niskin, **seconded** by Michener to reappoint Hurto to serve as Chair of the Commission. Approved 3-0. **Motion** by Hurto, **seconded** by Reinheimer to reappoint Niskin to serve as the Vice Chair of the Commission. Approved 3-0.

Adjournment. Niskin inquired about the historic preservation plan discussed at previous meetings. Staff indicated that the CLG grant for it was not awarded and discussed how historic preservation planning might fit into a comprehensive planning effort. **Motion** by Michener to adjourn the meeting and **seconded** by Niskin. Meeting was adjourned at 2:04 pm.