

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

February 1, 2021

ROLL CALL:

Board members present: Hurto, Reinheimer, Michener
Board members absent: Niskin
Staff Present: Erin Chambers, Director of Community Development
Others: Matt Muckler, City Administrator

Chair Hurto called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM.

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 Michener to approve the agenda for the current meeting. Voice Vote: 3-0, approved.

Certification of Iowa Open Meetings Law: Chambers confirms.

Approval of the Previous Meeting of January 4, 2021. Minutes of previous meeting were reviewed and approved with corrections. **Motion** by Hurto, **seconded** by Reinheimer, Approved as corrected, 3-0.

Corrections: P. 1 spelling of "Brainerd, MN"; P. 2 last paragraph, spelling of "discussed"

Communications from State Historic Preservation Office.

- 1/25/21 Email: CLG Annual Report information
- 1/28/21 Email: Grant program for under-represented communities
- 1/21/21 Email: 2021 Preserve Iowa Summit Virtual
- 1/22/21 Email: Excellence in Archaeology and Historic Preservation Award

Items from City Staff.

- a. **CLG Annual Report.** Draft of the Annual Report was reviewed. The following corrections were provided:
 - 3.1 Take 1st Ave Districts Out
 - 8.1 Add 1st Avenue Districts
 - 8.2 Add articles by Hurto in Jasper County Living
 - 8- Include utility box wraps project
 - 24 Correct Reinheimer phone number

There was discussion on the draft 2021 Work Plan. There was consensus among commissioners that the Work Plan is appropriate. **Motion** by Michener, **seconded** by Reinheimer to approve the Annual Report as amended and the 2021 Work Plan as submitted, Approved 3-0.

- b. **Iowa Reinvestment District Application.** Chambers reviewed the memorandum to the commission explaining the Iowa Reinvestment District Program by the State of Iowa. Newton is applying for a reinvestment district for an area of Newton which includes Legacy Plaza (former Maytag Headquarters Campus) and the Historic Downtown. Commissioners expressed excitement about the possibility of projects in the city center. **Motion** by Reinheimer, **seconded** by Michener to support Newton's Reinvestment District Application, Approved 3-0.

Items from the Commission.

Reinheimer. Reinheimer noted that the County terminated the agreement with a developer to sell the old post office (cited January 29th NDN article). There was discussion regarding the status of the building and its previous listing on the Endangered Properties List.

Reinheimer reported that former commissioner Barthelman sent out proto-types for 6 more plaques and that she [Reinheimer] is reviewing.

Reinheimer Asked about Main Street Trivia night and if the Commission wanted to have a team. The scheduled night is the last weekend in March. There was discussion regarding whether or not commissioners would be comfortable in light of COVID-19.

Michener. Michener reported that she discovered a tool in the County Assessor's GIS online hosting program (Beacon by Schneider Corp). Michener reported that you can sort based on year building was built. There was discussion on the accuracy of those building dates at the Jasper County Assessor.

Hurto. Hurto asked the commission about taking on a signage project as previously proposed by Commissioner Niskin. There was discussion on what the logical next steps would be. There was discussion on the projects that are currently undertaken by the Commission. There was consensus to hold off on any additional signage projects until the plaque project is complete.

Reinheimer asked for information about downtown buildings- specifically 215 West 2nd ST North and 107 1st Avenue West. Chambers did not have update for 215 West 2nd Street North. Chambers provided update on new owners of buildings at 107 1st Avenue West and 117 1st Avenue West.

Items from Citizens.

None.

Adjournment. **Motion** by Reinheimer to adjourn the meeting and **seconded** by Michener. Meeting was adjourned at 2:08 pm.