

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

March 1, 2021

ROLL CALL:

Board members present: Hurto, Reinheimer, Niskin, Michener (1:13 pm)

Board members absent:

Staff Present: Erin Chambers, Director of Community Development

Others: Erin Yeager, Newton Main Street
Mark Hallam, Newton City Council
Pam Pratt, NDN

Chair Hurto called the meeting to order at 1:02 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 Hurto 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 February 1, 2021. Minutes of previous meeting were reviewed and approved with corrections. **Motion** by Niskin, **seconded** by Reinheimer, Approved, 3-0.

Communications from State Historic Preservation Office.

- 2/9/21 Email: Grant Round ends on May 3rd for HRDP Grant
- 2/16/21 Email: Preservation Iowa 2021 Endangered Properties List and Grant from National Trust
- 2/17/21 Email: newspaperarchive.com- complimentary access
- 2/22/21 Email: Nominations for 2021 Preservation at Its Best Awards

Niskin asked about any possible resources for signage. Hurto reviewed the discussion about signage that occurred during the 2/1/21 meeting of the commission as it was reported in the minutes. Hurto reviewed the current building plaque project.

Niskin wondered why designing of consistent community signage couldn't go forward so that as funding and time became available the commission was ready. Hurto suggested Niskin begin to sketch ideas out. Niskin agreed to do so. There was discussion on signage parameters. There was consensus on the "New Holland, MI" design.

Items from City Staff.

- a. **CLG Annual Report.** Chambers reported that the report has been submitted.

Items from the Commission.

- a. **Preservation at Its Best Awards (Hurto)** Chair Hurto wondered if the First Avenue East and West Districts could be a potential application. There was discussion on a broader scope for an award submittal that could include planned efforts and developments, such as the Iowa Reinvestment District. Together, recent and upcoming work could make a very compelling application.

There was discussion about the Splash Pad project being explored by Newton Main Street volunteers and the City. There was also discussion about derecho damage.

Individual Reports:

Hurto. Hurto thanked City Staff Danielle Rogers for press release about the First Avenue East/West District approval. Hurto reported that he did an interview on 3/1/21 with NDN's Pam Pratt. Pratt, in attendance at the meeting, asked for perspective on districts from the others. Reinheimer stated that it provides recognition of homes built by important people in Newton's history. Hurto also mentioned March as Iowa History Month.

There was discussion about a HPC team for Trivia Night on March 20th. Staff responded that in order to be consistent with how the City is handling public gatherings of boards/commissions that it would be best to not have the team officially associated with the commission.

Michener. Michener asked about the HRDP Grant for Murals. Staff stated that it is on the 3/1/21 agenda for City Council.

Niskin. None.

Reinheimer. Reinheimer reported that she has been asked to do the Proud to Know Newton radio show in July. Rita asked for a copy of the 2021 Work Plan. Staff will email it to her.

Items from Citizens.

Pratt. None.

Hallam. Hallam congratulated the commission on their hard work resulting in the First Avenue East and West Districts.

Yeager. Main Street Design Committee and SSMID Board are working on flowerpots. Main Street is working on a new website.

Other Comments (not on agenda). Niskin had closing comments on the Commercial Inspections stating that she thinks it is a good idea and will help keep buildings in the community in good shape. She noted her experience with the commercial building she owns.

Adjournment. Motion by Michener to adjourn the meeting and **seconded** by Niskin. Voice vote, approved 4-0. Meeting was adjourned at 2:04 pm.