

Decorah Historical Preservation Commission
Minutes March 13, 2017 Meeting (Final)

1. Meeting was called to order at 4:35 p.m. Commission members present were chairperson Mark Muggli, Kris Lynch, Tony Clarke, Diane Scholl, Jody Holland and Judy van der Linden.

Also present were Janelle Pavlovec, Decorah resident, Hayley Jackson, Luther College archivist, and Charlene Selbee, Winneshiek County Convention and Visitors Bureau Director.

2. Minutes from the Feb. 5 meeting were changed to clarify item 13. Jody moved, Diane seconded and members approved the minutes as changed.
3. Haley Jackson may apply to join DHPC.
4. Mark will give two presentations about Decorah's Commercial Historic District -- March 15 to the Decorah Betterment Association and March 21 to the Luther College Women's Club.
5. a. The SNRC meeting -- at which our downtown nomination will be considered -- will be held June 8 at Fort Dodge, ahead of the Preserve Iowa Summit, June 9-11.
b. Mark asked commissioners to consider attending the Preserve Iowa Summit.
c. Ways we might celebrate a successful nomination announcement were discussed; a party for building owners and the community, perhaps in conjunction with an already scheduled music event, or a reception at the Visitor's Center, 507 W. Water St., where we could post pictures in the gallery area and invite a local brewery or winery to conduct a tasting.

The cost of signs for the new historic district and of other visitor information such as brochures, maps and building plaques, was discussed. Charlene said maps are popular for visitors, and noted that the Driftless Area Scenic Byway was been extended to Winneshiek County and goes down Water Street. She knows of grant possibilities to fund visitor publications.

Judy offered to talk to Elizabeth Lorentzen to learn who paid for the Broadway-Phelps Park District street signs, how they were ordered, and other details.

6. Commissioners voted to give this year's Historic Preservation Awards to Norb Bohr for maintenance of the Count Street brick pavers (with mention of city street department for its help), and to Steve Runde for restoration of the Weiser poultry house and continued work on the nearby carriage house. *Mark will contact the two of them.*

Diane suggested we make two residential awards next year -- perhaps to the Paine/Norris and Grimstad homes on Upper Broadway. Also mentioned as award candidates were the Hoag house and the Somdahl home on 5th Avenue, and the restored interiors of Modish and other downtown businesses.

7. Mark moved, Jody seconded and members approved discussing the Altfillisch project (agenda item #8) next. Kris reported West Side School does indeed have

its building blueprints, plus other Altfilisch blueprints. The school offered DHPC the original blueprints if we provide it with copies. Commissioners decided to postpone taking possession of any blueprints until there is a place to archive them. Mark said just knowing the present location of blueprints is valuable.

Kris said an Altfilisch tape recording was found but is broken. She is trying to get it converted to digital format.

Tony reported Lindsay Erdman hasn't yet had time to inventory his firm's Altfilisch items. Hayley said Luther College has Altfilisch blueprints and some correspondence, but her inventory is not yet complete. Mark noted one DHPC project will be to develop a list of all properties in Decorah designed by Altfilisch.

Kris will arrange a tour of the West Side School building for interested commissioners on Monday, April 10, around 3:45 p.m.

8. Regarding expanding the Broadway-Phelps Park Historic District, Mark explained all district amendments must go through the full approval process, and that we may want a professional's opinion about houses we decide to add before submitting an application. After much discussion, Kris moved, Jody seconded and members voted that the expansion include no houses, just St. Benedict's Church and the city library. *Mark and Kris will work on St. Benedict's Church, Diane and Jody will research the library building, and Judy and Kris will work to update the status of any structures already within district boundaries. Mark will also let Elizabeth Lorentzen and WCHPC know of our plans.*
9. The Landmark Project was tabled until the next meeting.
10. Commissioner reports: Judy asked about the DHPC file cabinet and was told it is in the library basement office now occupied by WCHS. Mark believes library staff will provide access to it if WCHS is not in the office. Per Mark's request, Judy also enters into the minutes a photographer's contact information: Jim Satterfield (jimmy.satterfield@yahoo.com).
11. Janelle asked about a QR (=Quick Response) code.
12. Next meeting will be Monday, April 10 at 4:30 at City Hall. (Tour of school is planned to precede meeting.)
13. Meeting was adjourned at 6:32 p.m.