

Decorah Historical Preservation Commission
April 10, 2017 Meeting – Final Minutes

1. Meeting was called to order at 4:32 p.m. by chair Mark Muggli. Present were commissioners Kris Lynch, Diane Scholl, Judy van der Linden and Lois Humpal.

Also present: Janelle Pavlovec, Decorah resident; Norma Wangsness, downtown building owner; Mayor Don Arendt, and Paul Scott of Decorahnews.com.
2. Lois was welcomed as a new DHPC member.
3. Diane moved, Kris seconded and members voted to approve minutes from the March 13 meeting.
4. Kris moved that DHPC endorse the completed application to place Decorah's commercial district on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Lois seconded the motion. It passed unanimously. The application will be considered by the State Nominations Review Committee (SNRC) on June 8. Kris is interested in attending the Preserve Iowa Summit June 9-11.

Judy reported that signs for the Broadway-Phelps Park Historic District were ordered by Elizabeth Lorentzen from Iowa Prison Industries. A total of 15 signs of various sizes cost about \$300. Mark said he believed there would be no problem finding money to pay for commercial district signs. Commissioners decided to wait to order signs until after NRHP makes its formal announcement on the commercial district.

5. Mark reported that Norb Bohr, Peter Meyer and the city street department are honored to accept a Historic Preservation award for maintaining Court Street's brick paver surface. He said Steve Runde declined the award for now because his renovation of the Weiser carriage house is incomplete.

Kris moved and Diane seconded that we present one award for the brick work, and that we give a second award to Raef and Joie LaFrentz for renovation of their Prospect Hill property. Their award would be conditional on Mark's talking with the LaFrentzs to determine that the project is worthy and that they are willing to receive the award. The motion passed. If for some reason the LaFrentz award falls through, DHPC will give only one award this year. *Lois will ask an acquaintance how to contact the LaFrentzs, and Mark will talk to the couple.*

Tentative time of the award ceremony will be Monday, May 8 at 5 p.m. Regarding possible venues, *Kris will ask about the Hotel Winneshiek lobby and Diane will contact Ellen Rockne about Lingonberry. Mark noted that the LaFrentzs may offer their property, as well.* Other possible locations are St. Ben's or the Methodist church rooms, T-Bock's upstairs and the Alliant building meeting room. *Kris volunteered to print or make awards, Judy and Diane will do brief presentations on the brick pavement and LaFrentz histories, respectively.* It was suggested that Jody

introduce the award ceremony, since Mark will be out of town. *Mark will submit a news release about the ceremony before he leaves town.*

6. Mark will ask the city council at its meeting April 17 for permission for the public library to be added to the Broadway-Phelps Park Historic District. He suggested DHPC have a first complete draft of the amended district application done by Oct. 1, although that may not allow enough time to get it to SHPO by Dec. 1st. *Mark will ask Paula Mohr if all new photos of district properties are needed, and if the amended application should more strongly emphasize contributing versus non-contributing status of structures.*
7. Re: the Charles Altfillisch project:
 - a. The West Side School tour is scheduled for Monday, April 17 at 4 p.m.
 - b. Mark's suggested assignments for the project were agreed upon: *Mark and Judy (with possible consultation with Hayley), database; Diane, genealogy; Kris, family connections and local interviews; Tony, city engineer and Luther College contact person.*
8. Further Landmark project discussions were tabled.
9. Re: Upcoming presentations and activities:
 - a. Mark will make DHPC's annual presentation to the City Council Monday, April 17 at 5:30 p.m.
 - b. Jody will represent DHPC on an ad hoc Oneota Drive bridge replacement committee.
10. *Kris will discuss with Charlene Selbee (director of Winneshiek County Convention and Visitor's Bureau) our willingness to help with updates to the city's historical architecture brochure.*
11. Janelle mentioned that Elizabeth Lorentzen is developing a book using the "Walk into the Past" signage. Janelle felt DHPC should be aware of and perhaps consulted about the book. *Mark will send an email to Elizabeth to discuss the inclusion of DHPC and the downtown designation in the book.*
12. Next meeting will be Monday, June 5 at 4:30 p.m. in the city hall meeting room.
13. Meeting adjourned at 6:17 p.m.