

Decorah Historic Preservation Commission  
FINAL March 12, 2018 Meeting Minutes

**1. Roll call.** Meeting was called to order at 4:15 p.m. by commission chair Mark Muggli. Present were Adrienne Coffeen, Hayley Jackson, Diane Scholl and Judy van der Linden. Absent were Lois Humpal and Kris Lynch. Also present was Decorah resident Janelle Pavlovec.

**2. Review and approval of Minutes from Feb. 12, 2018, recorded and distributed by Commission secretary Judy van der Linden.** Mark moved, Adrienne seconded and members approved the minutes.

**3. DHPC Membership.** *Mark will ask Ryan Engelman about joining the commission after Kris resigns.*

**4. Charles Altfillisch project.**

**a. 2018 Historic Preservation Award.** Mark reported that Adrienne Coffeen and her husband have declined an award. *Hayley will complete work on the letter to the remaining five Altfillisch home owners, copy it on city letterhead and mail it right away.* With regard to the award ceremony on May 17, *Mark volunteered to open with an introduction and Altfillisch biography, Adrienne will talk about 100 Pleasant Hill Dr.; Diane - 303 Upper Broadway; Judy - 609 W. Broadway; Kris -500 5th Ave., and Hayley - 801 Mound St.* Individual home presentations will be short, covering year of construction, original and current owners and any notable building style. An accompanying powerpoint presentation could include exterior photos of each home and several interior pictures of special Altfillisch “trademark” features. *Mark will put Hayley in contact with Kim Glock so that she can tour 801 Mound St.*

**b. Other progress.** Mark recently learned from Elizabeth Lorentzen about five other homes that may be Altfillisch designed. He added them to the property list, citing Elizabeth as a source. Any of us could try phoning their current owners to confirm if they are Altfillisch homes.

**5. Decorah Commercial Historic District follow-up.**

**a. Signage.** Kris reported she is unsure the “bump” feature we all liked will show up because of how high current street signs are mounted. *Judy will contact Iowa Prison Industries to find out if they make such a shape and if so, a ballpark cost per sign.* Mark moved, Judy seconded and the commission voted 4-1 to choose brown as the commercial district street sign color.

**6. Expanding Broadway-Phelps Park Historic District update.** Mark reported that the state preservation office has asked for quite a bit more information in the application, including a clear “period of significance” for the district as well as a table detailing which of all properties in the district are contributing and which are not. This will take significantly more work, although the state offered to help us determine which properties contribute. Mark made a motion that we proceed with the application to add St. Benedict’s Church and Decorah Public Library to the BPP District, but on a modified timetable. Diane seconded, and the motion passed unanimously. Judy offered to help Mark gather information on the existing district properties.

**7. Luther College Historic District update.** Ryan Engelman and Mark submitted a site inventory to the state in February. They learned March 6 that the state now wants intensive studies done of the proposed college district by a landscape historian and an architectural historian. The Luther College committee in charge of the project has decided to proceed with it, but will need to locate one or two consultants to conduct the studies. *Mark will ask John Christianson if he can recommend people for the jobs. He’ll also ask John where certain landscape documents might be located in the college archives (Hayley has been unable to find them).* Another Luther College property, the old

Jewell farmhouse on the west side of Hwy. 52, will be toured by Mark and three other gentlemen to determine its condition. Judy thinks what local mason Kevin Lee describes as a “sweet” little stone creamery building is located nearby.

**8. Courthouse Advisory Committee update.** This committee met March 8. Mark is impressed with how serious the members are about restoration of the courthouse. He believes members will play an important role as advocates to the community for the needed but likely expensive repairs and restoration work that is planned.

**9. DHPC Municipal website revision.** Basic text submitted by Mark for the website is all in place. Mark urged commissioners to think of other web content we might want on the site (ideas include materials on Decorah’s two historic districts and other articles about architecture).

**10. Historic Tax Credits follow-up.** Mark’s press release was printed on decorahnews.com and in the newspaper.

**11. Commissioner Reports.** Mark reported that Steven Johnson of the Winneshiek County Historic Preservation Society invited him to speak about the downtown historic district at a preservation workshop being organized for Saturday, May 19. *He and Judy may brainstorm ideas for the talk.* Judy suggested a possible project for grant money would be complete restoration of the brick surface on Court Street. *Mark will ask Chad Bird if the city is already planning to do that.* Adrienne said she emailed Kyril Henderson about the commission’s Facebook page and learned that he is no longer an administrator. He is trying to contact the current administrator and hopes to put that person in contact with Hayley.

**12. Public Comment.** Janelle had questions about the expansion of the Broadway-Phelps Park District.

**13. Possible upcoming meetings: Monday, April 9, 2018; Monday, May 14, 2018; Monday, June 11, 2018.** Next meeting will be Monday, April 9 at 4:30 p.m. in the conference room at City Hall. Mark will participate by telephone.

**14. Adjournment.** Meeting was adjourned at 5:50 p.m.