

Decorah Historic Preservation Commission
Sept. 10, 2018 Meeting Minutes (FINAL)

1. Roll call. Meeting began at 4:35 p.m. Present were Hayley Jackson, vice-chair, Adrienne Coffeen, Steve Kelsay and Judy van der Linden. Absent were Lois Humpal, Diane Scholl and Mark Muggli. Also present was Decorah resident Janelle Pavlovec.

2. Review and approval of June 11 meeting minutes recorded and distributed by Commission secretary Judy van der Linden. Minutes were approved as written.

3. DHPC Membership. Welcome to Steve Kelsay!

4. Airport Hangar.

- a. **New Gunderson hangar approved by council.** Commissioners voted unanimously to support the city's decision to demolish the old hangar.
- b. **Site inventory.** There was no report on a site inventory for the old hangar.

5. Charles Altfillisch Project Updates.

- a. **Altfillisch and Olson papers acquisition update.** Hayley reported that Susie Tone had emailed to say that additional Altfillisch items would be coming to Luther College. Hayley also said that David Wright had brought the Roger Olson papers to Luther, and an inventory of those has begun.

6. Luther College Historic District Update.

- a. **Final reports.** Hayley said reports for campus buildings were due Sept. 1 and that she had received all but two reports, which she hopes will arrive shortly.
- b. **Shipping files to Jan Olive Full.** Hayley would like to ship all building files to Jan this week.

7. Commercial District.

- a. **Updates from meeting with Street Committee.** Judy met last Tuesday night with the street committee, headed by city council member Ross Hadley. Committee members seemed to like DHPC's "bump" sign, but want to wait for two things: A color scheme to coordinate various signs around town; and results of the Iowa State visioning meetings. Ross said he would get back to us by Nov. 1.
In a related discussion, commissioners agreed they'd like more time to review proposed commercial signage and storefront changes, and would also like tighter guidelines for such changes. The group discussed meeting with P & Z and city officials after Mark returns. Janelle suggested also talking to Mayor Lorraine Borowski. Until then, members will research HPC operations in four cities -- *Hayley will check on Lanesboro, MN, Judy on Waverly, Adrienne on Mt. Vernon and Steve on Pella.*
Judy also said she and Adrienne met to plan a tour or program for the commercial district. *They will meet again with Steve on Oct. 2 to discuss a possible Downtown Scavenger Hunt, Porch Tour or other program.*

8. Planning and Zoning Committee Update. Hayley asked if commissioners were agreeable to the Modish building and sign changes on tonight's P & Z committee agenda. Neither Adrienne or Steve liked the idea of "halo" lighting, especially if the light is colored. Members were resigned to this sign being approved, but talked again about changing guidelines so that new signage could be more in keeping with historic downtown.

9. Broadway-Phelps Park Amendment. Judy has not heard any update on the park department's proposed handicap-accessible park overlook. One wall of the north overlook along Park St. washed away in heavy rain, and that overlook remains closed.

10. Continuing education opportunities.

a. Preserve Minnesota Conference, Winona MN, Sept. 12-14. The conference is this week, but at this time no one plans to attend.

11. Commissioner Reports. There were no reports.

12. Public Comment. Janelle urged commissioners to push city officials for more involvement in planning, zoning and other decisions related to historic buildings and structures. She also asked about the Sept. 23 Phelps Park Cemetery Tour.

13. Possible upcoming meetings: Monday, Oct. 8. Members will meet next on Oct. 8 at 4:30 p.m. in the city hall conference room.

14. Adjournment. Meeting was adjourned at 5:45 p.m.