

Decorah Historic Preservation Commission  
June 10, 2019 Meeting Minutes (FINAL)

1. **Roll Call.** Meeting was called to order at 4:35 p.m. by Chair Mark Muggli. Commissioners present were Adrienne Coffeen, Lois Humpal, Steve Kelsay, Diane Scholl and Judy van der Linden; Hayley Jackson was absent. Also present were City Manager Chad Bird, City Engineer Jeremy Bril and Decorah resident Janelle Pavlovec.
2. **Review and approval of Minutes of May 6, 2019 meeting, distributed by Commission secretary Judy van der Linden.** MOTION: Lois moved and Adrienne seconded a motion to approve minutes with one typographical change. Motion passed.
3. **Court/Main Street intersection -- updated plans from City Engineer Jeremy Bril and City Manager Chad Bird.** Jeremy determined the brick intersection is in better condition than first thought, so his new plan uses less concrete for repairs. Commissioners endorsed the change and the city's effort to preserve as much original brick as possible.
4. **Main Street Program -- purpose, updates, timetable, work assignments.** Commissioners discussed the program and the MSI application, due June 24. Llew Jenkins has asked DHPC to complete Section 2 of the application and have answers submitted by June 18. MOTION: Steve moved and Lois seconded a motion that DHPC write a letter endorsing the Main Street program for Decorah. *Mark volunteered to write the letter. Judy and Steve will finish the spreadsheet of the ~160 properties and work with Jeremy or Jon Lubke to prepare maps. Mark and Diane will work on gathering photos (consulting Ross Hadley, DGA, WCHS, Echos of the Past and Jan Full's postcards). Mark also offered to write answers to application questions 22 and 25, and the group discussed questions 26, 27 and 28. Mark will call Elizabeth Lorentzen to ask about other demolitions and begin compiling a list for #28. Steve and Judy will meet to work on answers to remaining questions.* MOTION: Steve moved and Diane seconded a motion that DHPC endorse the application for MSI because it will be good for economic development and simultaneously for historic preservation in Decorah. Motion passed.
5. **May Historic Preservation Month activities.**
  - a. **Comments on award ceremony; notes for next year.** Ceremony went well and two large bottles wine were perfect for reception.
  - b. **Scavenger Hunt followup -- press release, distribution, etc.** Press release was published; hunt sheets are available at Chamber, Hotel Winneshiek and Porter House. A second printing of 200 was just completed.
6. **Update on Planning and Zoning and Board of Adjustment issues related to signage and renovations on historic buildings and in historic district.**
  - a. **Muggli met with City Manager on May 10.**
  - b. **Final memo and draft signage document emailed to City Manager on May 13.**
  - c. **City Manager will distribute to P&Z and BoA and will lead the project coordination.** Mark said this will happen when Chad has time.

7. **Possible fall historic preservation conference co-hosted by HPC's of Winneshiek County, Decorah and Fort Atkinson.** Steve Johnson approached Mark about this and commissioners agreed they are interested.
8. **Muggli report on professional education "2019 Preserve Iowa Summit" in Newton, Iowa June 6-8.** Mark reported the conference was a good experience and encouraged others to go next year when it will be in Dubuque. His impression was that Newton is way behind Decorah in appearance and historic preservation. Mark got encouraging feedback about MSI while there. Finally, he noted other cities are using grants to hire consultants to devise Design Guidelines. Cost would be about \$20,000.
9. **Luther College Campus Historic District update.** Mark learned competition is steeper than he thought for grant money -- he will know by July if his grant proposal is accepted. He also learned that Wartburg College has begun the process of filing for NRHP district status. He hopes this won't negatively affect Luther's application.
10. **Charles Altfillisch project update.**
  - a. **Winneshiek County Newspaper archives and Altfillisch research on Google doc.** Mark encourages us to keep researching when there's time.
  - b. **Long-term goals and ongoing tasks for Commission members.** Mark learned that Google Maps can work well for the kind of Altfillisch building tour brochure we've envisioned.
11. **Broadway-Phelps Park amendment.** We've done no recent work on this.
12. **Local historic resources and Wikipedia -- note Google doc for recording existing articles.** We've done no recent work on this.
13. **DHPC Municipal website revision.** Mark noted website errors have been corrected and he did drop off the May preservation award ceremony article to be posted. He encouraged commissioners to think of other items we might want on the website.
14. **Commissioner Reports.** Mark: He is concerned about a proposed Veteran's Memorial on the grounds of the Municipal Building. It could detract from the building depending on its size and location. MOTION: Judy moved and Lois seconded a motion that DHPC write a letter to the city council suggesting any memorial be sited near the building's east elevation adjacent to the new jail addition. Motion passed. *Mark will write the letter and send it to all city council members and the City Manager.*
15. **Public Comment.** Janelle noted James Ronan (sp.?) has an extensive postcard collection of Decorah; that another set of visioning meetings is taking place; that a former bank's stone pillars are sunk in Carlson pond, and that a Dry Run Park on East Water Street would not be an appropriate place for a Veteran's Memorial, as had been suggested by some.
16. **Possible upcoming meetings: Monday, July 8, 2019.** DHPC will meet next at this time.
17. **Adjournment.** Meeting was adjourned at 6:37 p.m.