

Decorah Historic Preservation Commission
Minutes of March 30, 2022 Meeting (FINAL)

1. **Roll Call.** Meeting was called to order at 4:30 by vice-chair Hayley Jackson. Adrienne Coffeen, Diane Scholl, Karen Tjossem and Judy van der Linden were present. Mark Muggli and Mark Branum were absent. Decorah resident Janelle Pavlovec attended in person. No one attended via Zoom.
2. **Review and approval of Feb. 23, 2022 minutes. *Distributed by DHPC secretary Judy van der Linden.*** Mark suggested #4b be reworded as: *Elizabeth Lorentzen will be an individual collaborator on the brochure project, but no organization will be a co-sponsor with DHPC*, and Adrienne pointed out a typo. MOTION: Karen moved and Diane seconded approving the minutes with those changes. Motion passed 5-0.
3. **Annual DHPC Historic Preservation Award.**
 - a. **Possible recipients.** Members discussed ten possible recipients – Mark & Rachelle Branum, Kevin Lee, Convergence CiderWorks, the Depot, Janelle Pavlovec, Porter House, Paul Cutting & Nathan Thompson, Nancy Lerdall, Jim & Nancy Ulring, Lois & Dean Humpal. MOTIONS: Karen, Diane and Judy made motions to select Kevin Lee, the Branums and Porter House, respectively, for awards. Judy seconded all three motions. All three were unanimously approved. Members decided if one award is turned down, DHPC will present just two awards.
 - b. **Award event.** Commissioners envisioned awards being presented at either the Branum's building or at Porter House, or at both, with guests driving or walking the several blocks between one and the other. Mark B. might give a short history of his building and its recent renovation, while a PH board member might talk about recent improvements. Holding the event early in the month is best.
4. **C-3 rehabilitation discussions.**
 - a. **400 Heivly (Skyline bowling).** The Skyline permit was approved by Planning and Zoning (P&Z) and City Council with no reservations.
 - b. **201 W. Water St. (Donlon's Pharmacy).** Greg Swanson told Mark M. that Donlon's may lower its large sign and repaint. Karen asked if the Donlon's mural were also being touched up. She feels it is deteriorating and that its condition might be mentioned to the building owner.
 - c. **326 Washington St. (Oddfellow's Lodge).** Greg contacted Mark about a proposal to put metal or vinyl siding on this building, which appears to be in the C-3 district. Chap. 15 generally would exclude such siding. Commissioners thought because the building is on the edge of the C-3 district and has so little integrity, metal or vinyl siding could probably be allowed.
 - d. **306 E. Water St. (Fjelstul Funeral Home).** Mark promised the new owner, Scott Helms, that DHPC would weigh in on the proposed demolition of the older part of this building. Commissioners agreed they were hesitant about the proposed demolition and could not endorse it because of the home's remaining integrity.
5. **Luther College Campus Master Planning update.** Diane was unable to attend today's update, but will get an electronic copy of the presentation for those who want to see it.

Hayley has attended several planning meetings. She said the MP will be “high level,” meaning general and non-specific in nature. The MP committee hopes to have a preliminary plan by October and a final one ready for approval in February, 2023.

6. **Railroad Ave. Combination Depot update.** Karen talked to David Wadsworth, who said he hasn’t yet decided whether to give up his building. He continues to use it for now. Judy relayed David’s position to City Manager Travis Goedken.
7. **Altfillisch project update.**
 - a. **Printed brochure.** The Chamber of Commerce has apologized for delays in printing the new brochure.
 - b. **Launch party?** Commissioners tabled this item until next month.
8. **City Fire Station Planning update.** There was no further response to DHPC’s letter to P&Z, the mayor and the council after Steve Zittergruen’s reply.
9. **Discussion of Distinctive Decorah Properties project.**
 - a. **Site Inventories and SHPO.** SHPO said they would welcome any Site Inventories, even if they aren’t “complete.” They also are moving toward a digital submission process, according to Mark. He suggests we use the actual SI form for all research and later decide which completed SI’s to send to SHPO.
 - b. **DHCP assignments for particular buildings.** Karen started a list of building assignments, including: Mark M.–722 Washington St.; Mark B.(if he wishes)--207 Washington St.; Adrienne–206 5th Ave. and 909 Pleasant Ave.; Judy–404 5th Ave.; Diane–918 Pleasant Ave. and 700 W. Broadway; Karen–812 Maple Ave. and 902 Maple Ave.
10. **Continuing education.**
 - a. ***The Alliance Review, (issue 4, 2021) by March 4, 2022 email.***
 - b. ***Preserve Iowa Summit, June 2-4, 2022, Mason City.*** Registration isn’t open yet, but Mason City is relatively close to Decorah and has several Frank Lloyd Wright properties worth seeing.
11. **Commissioner Reports.** Mark M. reported two pieces of good news – that the Depot has granted DHPC \$2000 for producing a brochure about Decorah properties on the National Register of Historic Places, and that the Broadway-Phelps Park boundary extension was approved by the National Park Service. HoorayX2!
12. **Public Comment.** Janelle called the group’s attention to a program Friday, April 8 at 1:30 p.m. at the Senior Center, given by Larry Peterson about his historic photos of Decorah. She also mentioned that the library continues to sell furniture and other items out of the building that she believes have some history. She wanted commissioners to be aware that what might be historic Decorah items are being sold with little notice.
13. **Upcoming meeting: Wednesday, April 27, 2022, 4:30 p.m.** The time and date were noted. Hayley will be absent.
14. **Adjournment.** Hayley adjourned the meeting at 6 p.m.