

Decorah Historic Preservation Commission
Minutes of Jan. 25, 2023 Meeting (FINAL)

1. Roll call. Meeting was called to order at 4:34 pm by Chair Mark Muggli. Kathy Buzza, Adrienne Coffeen, Hayley Jackson and Judy van der Linden were present. Commissioners Mark Branum and Diane Scholl were absent.

2. Review and approval of December 28, 2022 minutes, distributed by secretary Judy van der Linden. Minutes were approved as written.

3. Election of 2023 DHPC officers. For chairperson, Judy nominated Mark Muggli; Kathy Buzza seconded the nomination, and vote was 3 in favor, 1 abstain. For vice-chairperson, Kathy nominated Hayley; Judy seconded, and vote was 3 in favor, 1 abstain. For secretary, Hayley nominated Judy; Mark seconded, and vote was 3 in favor, 1 abstain.

4. Draft 2023 annual CLG Report, with draft 2023 Work Plan. Mark presented the completed CLG Report form and a draft of a 2023 work plan to commissioners. MOTION: Hayley made a motion to adopt the CLG report form as completed, Kathy seconded. Motion passed. MOTIONS: Regarding the work plan, Mark made a motion to delete the Locust Road cave project from the list of potential projects. Motion passed. Hayley made a motion to substitute the photo archive project with a project to develop a list of internet resources for local researchers. Commissioners agreed this new effort should be placed in the list of priority projects. Hayley volunteered to take the lead on it. Motion passed. MOTION: Mark moved and Hayley seconded a motion to endorse the 2023 work plan draft with the changes described above. Motion passed.

5. Altfillisch project.

a. 609 W. Broadway centennial celebration. Mark reported Dale and Susan Goodman's ideas for their house celebration: The party would be best scheduled for late summer or early fall when all house improvements and repairs are done; visitors can have access to all the house except the basement; Dale and Susan will supply wine and snacks; Dale will produce a simple brochure about the house; the Goodmans are happy to have DHPC involve the three other nearby Altfillisch homes. Mark suggested contacting owners of the three soon. Kathy will talk to Jenny Grouws and Mark will talk to Drew Stevenson and Maria Jones.

6. DHPC 2023 Historic Preservation Award. Commissioners discussed four possible award recipients: Paul Cutting and Nathan Thompson for work on their home at 707 E. Broadway; a group of four buildings/businesses – the Armory, Ott's Pop Shop, Magic Morpho and Nordic Chiropractic – for appropriate restoration of windows; Vesterheim for the landscape at Heritage Park; and a group of six homes in Decorah for appropriate exterior paint jobs, including 614 W. Water and 308 Day Street. Mark suggested commissioners check out these buildings and come up with other ideas before the next meeting. DHPC meeting minutes from early 2022 listed some award possibilities.

7. Iowa Cultural and Entertainment District update. Mark reported the planning group met today, Jan. 25, and will meet again on Feb. 27. Members are developing a map of the district and trying to decide on an appropriate district name.

a. Application date: early May 2023

b. Planning Group: DHPC, Chamber, Vesterheim, ArtHaus, Decorah Betterment, Visit Decorah Tourism, Decorah City

c. Recent planning meeting: Wednesday, January 25, 11:00 am, Chamber of Commerce

8. Decorah Demolition permit process. Mark recently confirmed that a signed demolition permit is required to demolish a building anywhere in the city (although he noted that the requirement is not written in Decorah city code). Zoning administrator Greg Swanson and City Manager Travis Goedken have both said they would notify DHPC if an historic building were scheduled to be demolished, but commissioners debated asking to be officially included in the review process of demolition permits, even in just an advisory role. *Mark agreed to email Greg about DHPC's wish to be part of the process and sign off on demolitions.* Because of this possible added duty, commissioners agreed to change #4 of "Regular by-law responsibilities and on-going activities" in the 2023 Work Plan to include consulting on demolitions.

9. Preserve Iowa Summit, Sioux City, June 1-3, 2023. Mark and Hayley hope to make a presentation at the summit about DHPC's Altfillisch brochure/web/archive project. *Mark will edit the presentation proposal and send it off in the next two days.*

10. Contacts

a. Contact with Katie Goetz, researcher from Hess, Roise Historical Consultants ca. 105, 107-109 Water St. and 108 Washington St. Mark wrote Katie that he, Judy and others could find no additional photos for her research.

b. Kong Thao, McFarland Wisconsin Associate Planner concerning signage in historic areas. Mark sent Kong the copies of DHPC's sign and other guidelines that he requested.

c. Jessica Rilling, Decorah Chamber of Commerce concerning "Postage Stamp" mural project. See Jessica's email of thanks below (after minutes).

d. Vesterheim "Commons" building tour. Commissioners appreciated Chris Johnson's recent hardhat tours of the new Commons building. The Commons should be open to the public before Nordic Fest 2023, Chris said.

e. Phil Iverson tour of restored 1860s cabin. Phil has offered to give DHPC members a tour of his cabin, now an AirB&B. Members want to visit it after the weather warms up and the ground dries out.

11. Significant Decorah Properties project. DHPC's project list got a boost this month with the addition of numerous properties designed by architect William Bucknell, thanks to Kathy's research and organization. Mark said he could envision another architectural tour on DHPC's website – this one of William Bucknell buildings. Adrienne and Mark are also working on properties designed/constructed by Lars Seim, and Adrienne is still learning about the B. O. Dahly house on Locust Road and the subsequent Dahly addition to Decorah. Members continue to follow up on newspaper references and tips about architect-designed homes (including architect Enock Hill Turnock) and other homes that may be significant.

a. Project Guidelines and goals

b. List development

12. Commissioner Reports. There were none.

13. Public Comment. There was none.

14. Upcoming meeting: Wednesday, February 22, 2022, 4:30 pm. Date and time were noted.

15. Adjournment. Meeting was adjourned at 6 pm.

Attn: Mark Muggli

Please forward to Decorah Historic Preservation Commission,

I attended the City of Decorah Planning and Zoning Commission Meeting tonight (January 9th) in case there were questions that should arise regarding the mural application. The commission seemed agreeable to the idea and those members in attendance were yes votes for approval. Thank you to Mark Muggli for being on the zoom in the event of questions for Historic Preservation Commission. It's my understanding that this project goes now to the full city council for approval.

At this point in the process, I just wanted to extend a specific **Thank You** to the Decorah Historic Preservation Commission for your thoughtful review of the application and your letter of recommendation for approval. Your initial assessment obviously sets the stage for how this will transpire. A thank you also to Mark Muggli who met with me on site to discuss what was most strategic and in the best interest of the building integrity.

I'm hopeful that this can be a good example of successful public art and appreciate your time and energy regarding the project.

Best,

Jessica

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Jessica Rilling

Executive Director

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