

Decorah Historic Preservation Commission
Minutes of June 28, 2023 Meeting (FINAL)

1. Roll Call. Mark Muggli called the meeting to order at 4:35 p.m. Present were commissioners Kathy Buzza, Adrienne Coffeen, Hayley Jackson, Diane Scholl and Judy van der Linden. Nancy St. Clair was absent. Also present were Decorah residents Susan and Dale Goodman and Janelle Pavlovec.

2. Review and approval of May 30, 2023 minutes, distributed by secretary Judy van der Linden. Minutes were approved as written.

3. Altfillisch project.

a. 609 W. Broadway centennial celebration.

i. Sunday, August 27, afternoon. The Goodmans suggested Aug. 27, 1-4 p.m., for their house celebration.

ii. Brochure. Dale and Susan will create a brochure for visitors. Dale will write about some early owners of the house, and will help Judy write a house description. *Mark and Diane will write short descriptions of the Ingvaldstad (704 W. Broadway) and Carlson (303 Upper Broadway) homes for the brochure and Mark will write about the Hagen home (302 Upper Broadway).* It would be nice to have a large photo of #609 and small photos of the other three homes. Text should be done by Aug. 1.

iii. Needs. Regarding publicity, *Hayley will post a Facebook/social media article about the open house.* Mark advised Dale to send in a press release 2½ to 3 weeks beforehand. Goodmans will supply birthday cake, root beer and wine; *DHPC members can bring supplemental foods, help replenish food during the celebration, and act as docents at featured homes.*

b. Preservation Iowa “Preservation At Its Best” award. Mark reported that DHPC received a PAIB award at the summit, a surprise and an honor.

c. Mark and Hayley’s “Preserve Iowa Summit” presentation. The two gave the last presentation of the summit, yet it was well attended and the audience was energetic.

d. Mark’s June 19 “thank-you” to City Council for Summit attendance and award. Mark reported he thanked the council and was in turn thanked by Mayor Lorraine Borowski for the work the commission did on the Altfillisch project.

4. DHPC membership. At the June 19 city council meeting, Nancy St. Clair was approved as a new member of DHPC.

5. C-3/Commercial District. Kathy asked if DHPC had seen a C-3 permit for the new Helms Funeral Home sign. *Mark said no, but will ask Travis Goedken and Greg Swanson about it.*

a. Other

6. Steyer Bridge sign project.

a. Sign text update. Nan and Diane have researched the Steyers; *Diane will send their findings to Mark. Diane will ask if St. Benedict’s has records for a cemetery stone that might have been made by Steyer.*

b. Include 1963 Highway 52 bridge? Mark wondered if DHPC wanted to include information about the Hwy. 52 bridge over the cut on signage about Steyer bridge. (A third modern bridge could also be discussed on the sign.) Members will wait to decide on that.

7. Iowa Cultural and Entertainment District. Mark just learned Decorah’s ICED application

has been accepted, although the news is not yet public. The state and Decorah will sign a 10-year contract. Local publicity will take the form of a video.

8. Decorah Demolition permit process. No report.

9. Significant Decorah Properties project.

a. Publication. Mark noted the SDP list is up on the web, and that Adrienne is proofreading it. DHPC's SDP spreadsheet is still available and members can make changes or additions to it. *Mark and Judy will try to rename website tabs in early August to better include both the Altfillisch "tour" and the SDP "list."*

b. Next steps. Commissioners at this point can begin Site Inventories for particular SDPs. Adrienne suggested we spend part of a meeting getting familiar with the SI form and instructions. *Mark volunteered to write SIs for 801 Mound St. and 305 5th Ave.; Hayley will write up one (or more) cemetery; Adrienne, 206 5th Ave. and 900 Pleasant Ave.; and Kathy, 506 E. Main St. and 108 Rural Ave.* No deadline was set, but Mark encouraged members to make progress.

10. Space needs.

a. DGA offer of artifact storage space. Judy emailed Kevin Lee and Midge Kjome to thank them for their offer, saying DHPC would not need desk space but might at some point use limited storage space at DGA.

b. File cabinet in Public Library. Kathy contacted Kristin Torresdal about DHPC's cabinet at the library. Mark encouraged commissioners who need access to the cabinet to simply notify library staff ahead of time.

11. Viking River Cruise tours to Decorah. Mark said there is a plan for cruise ship tourists' free time in Decorah. The tourists will be able to visit a Chamber of Commerce "hydration station," and will have access there to all city and area brochures, if they're interested.

12. Contacts.

a. Phil Iverson tour of restored 1860s cabin. Phil gave commissioners a great tour of the cabin today.

13. Commissioner Reports. In response to a question by **Judy**, Mark said he'd talked to Viking State Bank president Rick Burras about 312 and 314 W. Main St., behind which the bank plans to construct employee parking. Rick assured Mark the bank doesn't intend to demolish the two buildings. *Judy volunteered to research both buildings (and to check out that block of W. Main St.) to learn if the two are appropriate for DHPC's Significant Decorah Properties list.* **Mark** summarized an Iowa Preserve Summit speech on working class homes built 1900 to 1940. The speaker said these had characteristic floor plans and were the first "modern" houses, with indoor plumbing and other amenities. DHPC's SDP list likely includes similar small, bungalow-type homes of that time period.

14. Public Comment. Janelle encouraged commissioners to attend the Emma Big Bear Celebration, Saturday, July 1, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. in Marquette. Emma was a member of the Decorah family of the Winnebago. Janelle can remember Emma selling her handmade baskets.

15. Upcoming meeting: Wednesday, July 26, 2023, 4:30 pm. Mark will be out of town but may join via Zoom. Commissioners should plan on meeting this day because of likely C-3 permit applications.

16. Adjournment. Meeting was adjourned at 6:08 p.m.