

**Minutes of Special Meeting
Newton Historic Preservation Commission
Public Works Conference Room
Public Works Building
1700 N 4th Ave W
Newton, IA 50208**

January 6, 2017

ROLL CALL:

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Hurto, Reinheimer, Niskin, Smith, Michener (1:07 pm)

STAFF AND OTHERS PRESENT: Erin Chambers, Planning and Zoning Director
Keith Laube, Public Works Director

A quorum being present meeting was called to order at 1:31 p.m. by Commission Chair Hurto

Approval of Agenda

Motion by Michener to approve agenda, seconded by Reinheimer; Voice Vote: 34-0. Approved.

Certification of Iowa Open Meetings Law:

Director of PZ, Chambers, confirmed compliance with the Iowa Open Meetings Law.

Past Meeting Minutes

Motion by Michener, seconded by Hurto to approve the minutes of the previous meeting, with the correction, found on 2nd line from the end, changing the "5" to "4". Voice Vote: 3-0. Approved.

Communications from the State Historic Preservation Office

Chair Hurto reviewed six communications from SHPO as follows:

- 1.: Email from Department of cCultural aAffairs regarding, HPC grant announcements
2. : Email regarding Historic Churches grant program. Hurto will provide a copy to local historic churches.

Items from Commission

Chair Hurto spoke about Newton Main street project, and micro grants. asked if any commissioners wanted to serve as the Historic Preservation Commission representative on the Newton Main Street Board.

Motion by Reinheimer to have Hurto serve as the HPC representative on the Newton Main Street Board, **seconded** by Michener. Voice Vote 3-0. Approved.

Michener reviewed the work that NHDC and NDC are doing with executive rentals and discussed how that connected to the 1st Avenue research the commission is currently doing. Reinheimer reported an update on one of the high-school volunteers.

Items from Citizens

No items from citizens.

Items from City Staff

Welcomed Keith Laube to share new proposals within the Maytag park district

- A. A. Preserve Iowa Summit- 2017 Session Proposal

Staff reviewed possible session topic, Growing the Ethic for Preservation in Jasper County, as discussed between Hurto and Chambers in days before the meeting. General consensus from the commission was that the ideas was good. Rita wasn't sure if she would be available to serve on a panel. Chambers indicated that she could be on a panel representing Newton. Proposals are due January 9, 2017.

- B. CLG Annual Report

Staff provided a copy of the draft to the commission. No comments. Staff will make sure it is submitted.

- C. Maytag Park Caretaker House

Keith Laube, Public Works Director, provided preliminary plans for review of a future office use at the Maytag Park Caretaker House. Discussion on preserving the exterior of the building and its surrounding setting. Discussion of potential interior modifications. Very little wall changes- only to accommodate Mens & Womens restrooms.

Michener suggested using the space as a rental facility. Laube noted that there will be more opportunity for future review by the commission and the public further down the road.

- D. Maytag Park Outhouse Fencing Review

The commission reviewed the citizen concern raised at the previous meeting regarding vandalism to the old outhouses in Maytag Park. Discussion regarding solutions. Michener suggested using a more durable material, such as concrete block to fill up the openings. Discussion of filling the pits to remove a potential danger. Discussion that on the structures remaining. Discussion regarding fencing- pros and cons.

Motion by Hurto to recommend installation of a fence enclosure around the Maytag Park Outhouses. *Motion failed due to lack of second.*

Reinheimer was invited to attend Iowa Summit -2017

- B. CLG Annual Report

C. On the topic of the Maytag park Caretaker House, there was a recent proposal to turn that into the city park offices. Another proposal was for it to be a public place, or Tonya proposed the space being available for the public to rent out. There was no conclusion to any of those proposals.

D. There was voiced (concern from a citizen) with the care of the outhouses located within Maytag park district. There was reported vandalism to the outhouses. One previous suggestion was to install a fence around the outhouses. The structures will remain. Tonya suggested to fill in the pits with concrete.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 pm. Motion by Rienheimer, seconded by Michner. Voice vote 43-0.

Following the meeting a work session for the CLG Grant: First Avenue Residential Survey & Evaluation.