

MINUTES
OF
MOUNT VERNON HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
October 3, 2020

The Historic Preservation Commission met via Zoom on Saturday, October 3, 2020 at 9:15 a.m. Members present on Zoom were Leah Rogers, Susan Hargus, Mary Evans, Suzette Astley, Janet Budack, Guy Booth, Donald Moore and Duane Eash. Guests present via Zoom included Hugh Lifson and representatives of Cornell College – Scott Ladwig, Adam Bastjan and Amy Kloss. There may have been additional participants on behalf of Cornell's pre-review place on the agenda.

The Minutes of the meeting of September 16, 2020 were, upon motion, approved.

The first item of business was design review request from Isaac Weddington regarding the work he is doing on the attached garage to his home. The house is in the Ash Park District. The Weddingtons desire to convert the garage into family living space, and to do so, they would like to add additional windows to the north side of the garage. The design presented would show the use of windows that are similar to the windows in the house. This would be a one-over-one design with similar trim on the outside of the windows. Mr. Weddington indicates that the replacement windows he is looking at would be modern vinyl windows. The Commission has suggested that he do some additional research to find out if wood windows could be a suitable alternate for what he is currently looking at. Upon motion by Guy Booth, seconded by Suzette Astley, the Commission approves a certificate of appropriateness for the project, with the request that wood-framed windows be researched and used if at all possible.

The second item on the agenda is a pre-review conference regarding the refiguring of the athletic complex at Cornell. This will include an addition on the south and west side of the original field house building, and the changing of usage of certain portions of the building. Adam Bastjan from Kahler Slater Architectural Firm in Milwaukee, WI was present to discuss the project. He gave an excellent review of the history of the building, and was able to point out how the new plans incorporate the athletic facilities into the overall flow of the campus. The new wellness center part of the building is projected to be completed by mid-2022 and will provide an open, well-windowed area for cardiovascular, as well as other types of weight-lifting and workout equipment. There will also be an elevator so all parts of the building will be more easily accessible. There was also a discussion regarding the landscape design for the building. MMS was represented by Luke, who had slides of the types of vegetation that would be appropriate for this project. Members of the Commission asked questions about the project and contributed their comments. Hugh Lifson was able to discuss the project in terms of the previous architectural history, and to make comments regarding design elements that fits the building within the overall architecture of the campus. Cornell will keep us informed regarding the project, and as they are ready to initiate construction, will make a presentation in a request for a certificate of appropriateness.

In addition to discussing the new wellness center, Scott Ladwig gave a brief summary of the devastating effects of the derecho on August 10. A number of buildings were damaged, and total loss may reach \$4,000,000. Numerous trees were damaged and have been removed from the campus. The most alarming damage may have occurred at King Chapel. Structural

engineers are going to review the building to determine what may need to be done to repair the damage and to preserve the building. Of particular concern is the tower on the northwest corner of the structure.

The Commission welcomed the two new members to the Commission. Duane Eash and Donald Moore.

Leah announced that there has now been an official listing of the 11 nominated brick houses in Mount Vernon on the National Register of Historic Places. Leah did a superb job in guiding the 11 owners, and the Commission through the very complex process of having the structures being placed on the national register.

Mary Evans indicates that she has received photographs from the Harold Herring family and will get these photographs merged into the website. Leah Rogers commented on the ongoing process of developing appropriate zoning for the highway commercial area that has grown because of the bypass. Guy Booth attended the open forum on September 28. There will be a Zoom meeting that will be open to everyone who wants to participate.

Under new business, Leah reminded everyone of the National Trust Forum. This will be a virtual forum and people can register for some or all of the presentations. These sessions can be used for the continuing education requirements of the Commission. Leah also indicated that there has now been funding from the Secretary of Interiors office to individual states for subgrants in the Paul Bruhn Historic Revitalization Program. These grants will be administered through the State Historic Commission. Leah points out that the funding for these grants from the Secretary of Interiors office comes from proceeds of offshore oil leases. Leah also mentioned that Doug Steinmetz has completed review of damage to the Maurice house. Leah will forward a copy to members. Repair work is underway.

The meeting adjourned at 10:50 a.m. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for October 14, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. Once again, the Commission will meet via Zoom.

Respectfully Submitted,

Guy Booth, Secretary