

MINUTES  
OF  
MOUNT VERNON HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION  
November 18, 2020

The Historic Preservation Commission met via Zoom on Wednesday, November 18, 2020. Members present on Zoom were Leah Rogers, Ed Sauter, Susan Hargus, Janet Budack, Suzette Astley, Mary Evans, Duane Eash, and Guy Booth. There were no guests, with the exception of Chance.

The Minutes of the meeting of November 7, 2020 were approved.

There are no design review requests on the agenda for this meeting.

Under old business, Leah discussed the scheduling of the meeting with CDG so we can present information regarding the importance of the downtown historic district, and to get an impression from CDG as to their initiatives regarding expanded retail possibilities in the bypass area. A number of downtown merchants have questioned the commitment of CDG to protect the merchants. Historic Preservation feels it is important for CDG to understand the commitment the city has made in designating the downtown historic district and to consider the impact of loss of merchants in the downtown area. The discussion was not meant as criticism, but merely to make sure there is open communication between the various interested parties in the downtown area. Leah will contact Joe Jennison to determine a date when the CDG people can meet with HPC.

Under new business, Leah indicates that the proposed HPC budget for the next fiscal year needs to be submitted to the City Council by December 4. The Commission reviewed the line item designations of our current budget. It was agreed that our budget request should be the same as last year. Questions arose mainly as to whether there should be adjustments in any of the line items. Thus far, the City has not limited expenditures pursuant to line item budgeting, and the total budget can be used within the general proposals of HPC.

Upon motion made by Suzette Astley, seconded by Guy Booth, Leah is directed to draft a proposed budget that she will distribute to the commissioners before it is submitted to the City Council. The motion passed.

Ed Sauter asked what was happening with the archive space that has been available to HPC. He was concerned because of the water damage from last summer. Leah reports that new space will be made available on the main floor, and the space may be available shortly after Christmas. The City is looking of input regarding the type of shelving that will be in the area. Mary Evans will continue to monitor the progress on re-establishing a safer environment for HPC archives.

Mary Evans also highlighted the wonderful job Grace Chamberlain is doing with our Facebook page and other social media approaches to make the HPC website available and known to the public. Mary reports that our website is averaging 45 hits per day. She feels the Facebook page is receiving approximately 100 hits per day. Much of this increased activity is because of the expansion of the website, and Grace's expertise in the use of social media.

Leah mentioned that Caroline Kelly has resigned from the commission, and that she will send a letter to Caroline thanking her for her contributions over the period of time she served with HPC.

The next scheduled meeting of HPC is December 5, at 9:15 am. It is presumed the meeting will be conducted on zoom.

Respectfully Submitted,

Guy Booth, Secretary