

MINUTES  
OF  
MOUNT VERNON HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION  
July 15, 2020

The Historic Preservation Commission met via Zoom on Wednesday, July 15, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. Members present on Zoom were Leah Rogers, Caroline Kelly, Mary Evans, Grace Chamberlain, Ed Sauter, Susan Hargus and Guy Booth. A guest who was present via Zoom was Scott Ladwig, project manager at Cornell College.

The first of two design review agenda items relate to new roofing for four residences owned by Cornell College. All were damaged by a hail storm, and the roofs of each of their houses were damaged to the extent that they need to have a new roof. These buildings are at 617 6<sup>th</sup> St. NW, 730 Summit Ave. SW, 1024 1<sup>st</sup> St. SW and 1204 1<sup>st</sup> St. SW. All of the properties are in the Cornell College historic district. Mr. Ladwig indicates that the roofs of the four houses will be replaced with the same type asphalt architectural shingle. They will retain the same color as the damaged shingles. Mr. Ladwig indicated that he was unsure if there was any damage to facia, gutters, or other wood on the houses, but if there are minor repairs, they will be made at the same time. Upon motion by Ed Sauter, seconded by Caroline Kelly, a certificate of appropriateness was approved.

A design review application from Baumans Clothing was presented. Baumans have received a grant from the City for improvements to the front door of the building. This is the original door of the building, and needs work on the door jams and on new weather stripping. The repairs will not change the appearance of the door. A question arose regarding the screen door on the building. The renters of the building indicate that the screen door will stay in place and will be unchanged. Upon motion by Ed Sauter, seconded by Susan Hargus, a certificate of no material effect was approved.

A second design review request from Baumans relates to signage on the front of the building. Because new windows have been installed, all of the old lettering has been lost. Baumans is proposing new vinyl letters that are gold with black etching in the middle of the front window. This would be very similar to the historic lettering that appeared on the windows of the building. Upon motion by Ed Sauter, seconded by Susan Hargus, a certificate of no material effect was approved.

Mary Evans gave an update on the website. She and Addy have been working on the continued placement of new material on the website. Addy has been working on the historic material donated by the Mount Vernon Lions Club. This is being organized so it will be easy to access and understand. Mary continues to work with placement of additional new photographs onto the website.

Under new business, Mary Evans described a significant loss that has occurred to the archival material in our storage room. While the City Hall has been basically closed during the pandemic, a leak developed in one of the bathrooms above the archival storage area. The water that came into the room substantially damaged a collection of the Gold Finch Journal. This had recently been donated to our commission from the University of Iowa. Mary was very upset with the loss of these journals. Most were badly soaked and were covered with mildew and

mold. It does not appear that the journals can be salvaged. Leah and Mary met with Chris, the City Administrator. Everyone feels bad about the loss of these items. The positive result, however, is that the City will be providing a new, more secure and climate-controlled room for storage of HPC's archival material. City Hall is being renovated now that the police department has moved out. There will be a room that has previously been used for storage that will be available. This should provide easier access to the material, and will provide better care for the archives. It was suggested that while our material remains in the basement room that has had water damage, that we see if the running of a dehumidifier in that space will be helpful. Mary indicates that the City will be willing to provide a dehumidifier. Mary and Caroline will continue to review this to see how the dehumidifier can be placed, and how it can be monitored, so it is emptied at the appropriate time. We will not have access to the new storage area until renovations of City Hall are complete. This may be in five to six months from this date.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned. However, as a non-agenda item, because we were all interested in how Grace is doing, Mary Evans prevailed upon Grace to give us a great profile view of her baby bump. Grace's daughter is due early in September and we all wish her well.

The next meeting of the Commission is tentatively scheduled for the first Saturday in August, which will be August 1, 2020. Leah will determine whether it will be a meeting by Zoom.

Respectfully Submitted,

Guy Booth, Secretary