

Mount Vernon HPC

Minutes of the July 4, 2020 Meeting (on Zoom)

Call to Order at 9:15 am

Members present: Leah Rogers, Caroline Kelly, Machele Pelkey, Hugh Lifson, Suzette Astley, Ed Sauter, Grace Chamberlain, Janet Budack, and Susan Hargus

No Guests

Approval of Minutes from 6/6/2020 meeting - Machele Pelkey noted one correction on the mention of the house genealogies that Mary Evans should be the only mention on that project. Ed Sauter made a motion to accept the minutes with the noted change. Hugh Lifson seconded. Unanimous vote approval of motion

No design reviews.

Old Business:

Preservation Summit - Leah Rogers noted that the videos are still open for viewing until August.

Summer Intern - Leah Rogers read Mary Evan's report on the summer intern. She noted Addie Pacha has been making good progress on the Lions Club papers, completed research on Heritage Days, and will be organizing intros for Bracket House, Holiday House, Lions Club, Mt. Vernon Bank, and the 11 brick houses on the NRHP for inclusion under the "Mt. Vernon History" section.

Website - Mary Evans further noted that she had seen some preliminary pages from the new Website and will see the entire website next week. She noted that it is wonderful and any changes can be made at the touch of a button.

There was no other old business.

New Business:

Grace Chamberlain reported that she had received one response from local religious leaders concerning the recent protests and the Black Lives Matter movement. She had received two homilies from Father Andrew Awotwe-Mensah of St. John's Catholic Church addressing the protests and equality. Hugh Lifson recommended also contacting Catherine Quehl-Engle, Chaplain of Cornell College.

Grace also asked whether the Mount Vernon Stories could be released publically on Facebook. Machele Pelkey indicated that there had been no responses from any students concerning this project. Susan Hargus thought it was a great idea and that perhaps people could record their stories on Zoom. Hugh Lifson noted that Joy Gaarde had a series of Life Stories of accounts and profiles of people in Mt. Vernon. He said he would talk to Sara Gaarde about those stories.

Cemetery project - Janet Budack reported that she has been corresponding with the State Cemetery Association and the group is concerned that there is currently no cemetery association for the Mt. Vernon Cemetery. She sent the information to Guy Booth and Chris Nobsch for feedback on legal rights, etc.

concerning any gravestone restoration projects. She noted that there is a meeting of the State Cemetery Association in Marion in October that anyone interested should attend. She also noted that the cemetery group needs to decide the scope of the project and how to proceed. The group is also interested in what Dick Thomas has been putting together on the cemetery. Machele Pelkey found a reference in the council minutes that at one time the cemetery had a sexton and there was a cemetery committee. Janet also reported that there was a very good seminar at the Preservation Summit (still available to view online) on the preservation of historic cemeteries.

Other New Business: Hugh Lifson asked if the legend for the Woods mural in the city council chambers had been hung. Leah Rogers thought it had but we would have to wait for city hall to reopen before this could be confirmed.

Leah noted that the next meeting will be July 15th at 5:30 pm on Zoom, if a meeting is needed.

Adjournment - 9:39 am