

MINUTES  
OF  
MOUNT VERNON HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION  
May 20, 2026

The Historic Preservation Commission met at Mount Vernon City Hall on Wednesday, May 20, 2026 at 7:00 pm. Commissioners present at City Hall were Grace Chamberlain, Sue Astley, Mary Evans, Duane Eash, Sherry Brayton, Randy Brown, Mike Guerber, Guy Booth and Edith Dawson. Guests present via Zoom were Trayshawn Schaal and Justin Jones.

There Minutes of the May 2, 2026 meeting were approved by motion of the Commission.

Design review that is before the Commission is for the replacement of the air conditioning unit that is located at the rear exterior of the home located at 606 8<sup>th</sup> Ave. NW, Mount Vernon, Iowa. This property is in the Cornell College Historic District. Mr. Schaal and Mr. Jones were present via Zoom to describe the replacement that needs to be made for the air conditioning unit for the property, which is located on a concrete pad next to the house. This unit can not be seen from the street in front of the property. The need for the replacement was that the current air conditioning unit was no longer functioning properly. Upon motion by Guy Booth, seconded by Duane Eash, the Commission approved a certificate citing no material effect. Randy will forward the certificate to Mount Vernon City Hall.

Mr. Schaal asked an interesting question about what would happen if there is an emergency for replacing an HVAC unit. He was concerned about the time it would take to file an application and have a hearing date set. Sue pointed out that this would not be necessary if the unit was indoors, as opposed to being on the exterior of the building. Further the Commission can meet in an emergency situation so long as the request for hearing (if a hearing is needed) is published 24 hours prior to the Commission hearing date. The City would also be able to respond in emergency situations.

As general discussion, but not as a presentation for approval, Sue Astley gave an update of the financial condition of the Commission as we move toward the end of the fiscal year. There are sufficient funds to pay the summer intern, to pay the registration fees for the preservation of Iowa Summit conference, to complete the work on the audio tour of the Commercial District, and to complete the plaques for the buildings identified in the audio tour. Any final decisions on expenditures can be made at the Commission's meeting at the beginning of June.

Randy Brown announced that Danielle Kumry has filed a request to be appointed to the Historic Preservation Commission. This matter will be taken up at the next commission meeting. Finally, it was mentioned that the new restaurant, which is a breakfast and lunch café, will be opening soon. We have not received any application for approval of signage. Randy will check with the City Administrator's office to see if an application has been submitted.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Guy Booth, Secretary