



Historic Preservation Commission Meeting Agenda

Monday, July 1, 2024 - 1:00 PM

City Offices (Building 18, Legacy Plaza) - Large Conference Room
403 W 4th St N, Suite 501
Newton, IA 50208

- I. Roll Call
- II. Review of Minutes of Previous Meeting: 06/03/2024
- III. Certification of Iowa Open Meetings Law
- IV. Items from City Staff
 - 1. State of Iowa Mobile Museum
 - 2. Smithsonian Institute Traveling Exhibit
- V. Item from Commissioners
- VI. Items from Citizens
- VII. Communications from the State Historic Preservation Office, IEDA, the Department of Cultural Affairs, or other entity with information relating to historic preservation
- VIII. Adjourn

Chair: Larry Hurto; **Members:** Tanya Michener, Rita Reinheimer, Toni Peska, Kelly Bennett

Meeting Minutes

NEWTON HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
Community Development/Community Services/Public Works
Large Conference Room
303 West 4th Street North, Suite 501
Newton, IA 50208

Date: June 6, 2024

Time: 1:00pm

Meeting called to order by: Chair Hurto

ROLL CALL

Board Members Present:

Hurto, Michener, Reinheimer, Bennett

Staff and Others Present:

Erin Chambers, Community Development Director
Erin Yeager – Newton Main Street

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, Chair Larry Hurto questioned if there was anyone present that may require special assistance in being able to participate in this public meeting. There was no response.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motioned by Reinheimer; 2nd by Peska. Bennett, 4-0

CERTIFICATION OF IOWA OPEN MEETINGS LAW

Chambers confirms.

ITEMS FROM CITY STAFF

1. State Of Iowa Mobile Museum: Chambers gave update
2. Smithsonian Institute Traveling Exhibit: Chambers gave an update.

ITEMS FROM COMMISSIONERS

Michener – Was at the V.A. office. She had found that they had Confederate grave markers in Jasper County. Reinheimer to provide paperwork to V.A. to get marker for Conf. Grant in Lynnville.

Reinheimer. Noted many buildings have historic photos on display and made her think of all the progress the commission has done for Newton history.

Bennett – Asked about Bunkeray Flags

Hurto. Reported the following:

1. Reported on correspondence on May 7th with Pat Beckham (Librarian of Jasper County Genealogical Society to identify Civil War veterans buried at Wittenburg Cemetery for Memorial Day services.

2. Reported on his meeting on May 7th along with Museum Director Lynner Whelan with Bonnie Terpstra owner of the 'The Farmers wife', her husband and son to look at the photographic mural (of Tyler studio employees processing film) from the Tyler Studio and some photographic equipment that she discovered in the upstairs of the building.
3. Discussed an email on May 16th forwarded by Museum director Whelan from a man interested in preserving a property for historic purposes a property. Whelan thinks the commission might pursue this. Hurto wonders if Mike Chapman might be more influential in making this happen.
4. Reported that he along with Mark Hallam on May 16th participated and won first place with 48 points the Newton Trivia contest.
5. Discussed an email conversation on May 18th with a citizen enquiring about the history of Church of Christ. Hurto will check building permits.
6. Reported on the May 22nd meeting with Jake Christensen, President of Christensen Development, of Des Moines, developer of the Housing/Hotel project at Legacy Plaza. Ther will be 50 apartments and rooms available for yearly lease with the first available this Fall. Hurto will be meeting Christensen at the Jasper County Historic Museum on June 7 to look at some old photos.
7. Reported on an email enquiring about a burial in the Catholic Cemetery. Sent her information on May 28th.
8. Reported that an employee of the PJs Deli told Hurto that Cara Muta the owner is interested in placing some old Newton photos in their extended meeting room. Hurto agreed to go to the museum with Cara and look for pictures she like.
9. Mentioned that the "For Sale" sign in front of William and Henrietta Scheark House at 420 1st Ave, W. formerly owned by Carrie Atkinson is no longer there.

ITEMS FROM CITIZENS

Erin Yeager – Provided updates on National Main St. Conference and the 4th of July parade, Reported on new intern Ella.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE AND/OR DEPT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS.

ADJOURNMENT

Motioned by Bennett, 2nd by Rita, Approved 3.0. 1:53 PM



Dear Partners in Preservation,

We are pleased to announce the 2025 Certified Local Government (CLG) Grant round is open. Applications will be accepted until September 3, 2024. CLGs may submit draft applications for review on or before August 9, 2024. SHPO will review draft applications will be within a week after submission. [Certified Local Government Grant Program | Iowa Arts & Culture \(iowaeda.com\)](#)

We anticipate awarding approximately \$100,000 to eligible CLGs across Iowa. This funding is exclusively available to Certified Local Government communities to further the mission of historic preservation locally. The types of projects that are eligible for funding include survey, nomination, planning, education, pre-development and training. We will utilize a scoring rubric to allow our reviewers to better assess each project's merits.

I look forward working with all of you during this grant round and seeing all the wonderful project proposals from across Iowa.

Sincerely,
Allison

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Dear Partners in Preservation:

I hope Preservation Month festivities around the state were successful! Earlier this month we had a great time in Mount Pleasant at the Preserve Iowa Summit. My regular update for the Month of May was delayed by all the excitement leading up to the event so expect two updates in June.

This month, in addition to the regular updates, I would like to take a moment to highlight a significant preservation accomplishment in Iowa. The Pottawattamie County Jail and Sheriff's Residence has been recognized as Iowa's 28th National Historic Landmark, joining a list of recognizable resources including the Louis Sullivan-designed Merchants' National Bank in Grinnell, the Woodbury County Courthouse, and most recently, the Surf Ballroom in Clear Lake, which was NHL-designated in 2021. The full list of Iowa's National Historic Landmarks (NHL) can be found here: [List of NHLs by State - National Historic Landmarks \(U.S. National Park Service\) \(nps.gov\)](#). Information about the NHL program can be found here: [National Historic Landmarks Program \(U.S. National Park Service\) \(nps.gov\)](#). A more detailed description of the most recent listing is included below about Iowa's most recent listing!

2025 CLG GRANT

The 2025 Certified Local Government Grant program application round just opened! This grant program is exclusively for Certified Local Governments that are in good standing in the State of Iowa. Additional information is posted on the CLG Grant webpage: [Certified Local Government Grant Program | Iowa Arts & Culture \(iowaeda.com\)](#)

POTTAWATTAMIE COUNTY JAIL AND SHERIFF'S RESIDENCE DESIGNATED A NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK

The National Historic Landmark (NHL) program is different from the National Register of Historic Places or NRHP in that resources that are listed on the NRHP can be important to the local community or region, the state, or nationally. The NRHP calls this the "level of significance". The NHL program is limited to those places that are significant to the history of the United States as a whole. Below we have highlighted some additional information about the Pottawattamie County Jail and Sheriff's Residence. If you would like to look up properties that are listed on the National Register of Historic Places the National Park Service maintains a list here: [National Register Database and Research - National Register of Historic Places \(U.S. National Park Service\) \(nps.gov\)](https://www.nps.gov/subjects/nationalregister/database.cfm)

The U.S. Department of the Interior has designated the Pottawattamie County Jail and Sheriff's Residence in Council Bluffs, Iowa a National Historic Landmark, recognizing it as the only remaining three-tiered "Lazy Susan" type jail in the United States and as an example of the innovative use of technology to address philosophical, economic, and social change in rural America at the end of the nineteenth century.

The Pottawattamie County Jail and Sheriff's Residence was built in 1885 in Council Bluffs, Iowa as one of eighteen rotary jail systems constructed in the United States and was the only one designed with three tiers. Known locally today as the "Squirrel Cage Jail Museum," it reflects late 19th century efforts to create budget-minded jail designs for local governments needing affordable, safe alternatives to address growing prison populations and calls from social reformers for a more humane and healthful prison system.

Prior to the Civil War, many communities used windowless, below-ground cells or recycled older buildings without adequate ventilation or sanitation to house imprisoned people. As crime rates rose along with rural populations following the Civil War, prisons became overcrowded with illness running rampant and local governments struggled to address the costs associated with upgrading facilities and hiring additional staff. Benjamin F. Haugh's and William H. Brown's solution of a rotating jail satisfied the requirements of both local governments and social reformers by providing a dry, clean, well-ventilated, and cost-effective structure that reduced the need for additional law enforcement staff.

This property is also significant for its enduring value as an example of technological creativity used to address social needs in a rapidly changing society. Advances in the mass production of steel, which increased its availability and affordability, changed how buildings were designed and constructed and unleashed the creativity of inventors. Haugh and Brown's patented rotating jail system equipped law enforcement with the means to isolate cells behind stationary grating, allowing them to interact safely with one cell at a time as they rotated the structure. Each cell was shaped like a pie piece, and the entire cell block turned around a central axis using a complicated mechanism supported by roller bearings built into the building's basement. A ventilation shaft supplied fresh air, and each cell also contained a smokestack that provided heating and a sanitation shaft for the water closets.

The jail is open to visitors year-round for details about admission and to learn more about the jail, please visit: [Squirrel Cage Jail \(thehistoricalsociety.org\)](http://thehistoricalsociety.org).

Announcements:

- [Find Funding: National Trust Grant Programs | National Trust for Historic Preservation \(savingplaces.org\)](http://nationaltrust.org)
- Historic Preservation Fund Grants (National Park Service) are competitive grants that are available expressly for historic preservation. Please take a moment to look at the chart on this page to see the different types of grant funds available to CLG Communities : [Apply - Historic Preservation Fund \(U.S. National Park Service\) \(nps.gov\)](http://nps.gov)

Thank you for your efforts to preserve Iowa's unique and important historic resources.

Sincerely,
Allison



Dear Partners in Preservation,

I hope you and your communities are managing to stay safe as a result of the recent weather-related disasters in Iowa. Our thoughts are with all of you during this challenging time.

Below are a few resources that have been shared with us by The Heritage Emergency National Task Force (HENTF), a public-private partnership between FEMA and the Smithsonian Institution, in support of the recovery efforts of Iowa's arts & culture sector – and the public.

Please reach out to your members and constituents to help gather reports of damage, identify any unmet needs, and share the following resources:

1. Were any cultural institutions or arts organizations affected? If so, how? Please encourage those impacted to fill out one of the following **Rapid Damage**

Assessment Forms:

- [Cultural Institutions](#)
- [Arts Organizations](#)
- [Individual Artists and Performing Groups](#)

Important: The Rapid Damage Assessment Forms are for data collection purposes and are **not** an application for FEMA assistance.

2. **Cultural institutions, arts organizations, and artists and performing groups** can call the National Heritage Responders hotline: **202. 661.8068**. The National Heritage Responders, a team of trained conservators and collections care professionals administered by the Foundation for Advancement in Conservation, are available 24/7 to provide advice and guidance.
3. **Members of the public and individual artists** who have questions about saving family heirlooms and personal collections can email the National Heritage Responders at NHRpublichelpline@culturalheritage.org.

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4. **HENTF's Save Your Family Treasures** guidance is available at [Save Your Family Treasures | FEMA.gov](#). Here you can find the downloadable FEMA fact sheets "After the Flood: Advice for Salvaging Damaged Family Treasures" and "Salvaging Water-Damaged Family Valuables and Heirlooms," available in multiple languages.

Please see the information below about an upcoming online seminar from the National Trust for Historic Preservation. This was a topic that came up during sessions at the Preserve Iowa Summit. The CLG commissioner shared this very timely online seminar opportunity with us to pass along to you.

Insuring Historic Properties in an Increasingly Challenging Marketplace – What You Need to Know: Join the National Trust's Government Relations and Policy team as they host a webinar with key leaders from the insurance, non-profit, and state historic preservation regulatory sectors about what you need to know about the state of the insurance industry today. National Trust Forum members are eligible to receive a free consultation from National Trust Insurance Services, should they be in attendance. Speakers: Meghan Elliott, Principal, Jillpine Kevin Sullivan, Vice President & Client Executive, National Trust Insurance Services, LLC Stephanie Cherry-Farmer, Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Community Affairs.

The seminar will be on July 16, 2024 at 2 p.m. (Central time). For more information, click [here](#).

Another timely reminder is the grant programs offered by the National Park Service (NPS). Certified Local Governments are eligible for two grant programs that are currently open: Underrepresented Communities and the African American Civil Rights- Preservation Grants.

Underrepresented Communities

The NPS is now accepting applications for the [Underrepresented Communities Grant Program \(URC\)](#). URC grants are funded by the Historic Preservation Fund (HPF), administered by the NPS, and work towards diversifying listings in the National Register of Historic Places. Projects include surveys and nominations of historic properties associated with communities underrepresented in the National Register.

Since 2014, the NPS has awarded \$7.5 million in grants to diversify the National Register of Historic Places. Congress has appropriated \$1.25 million for the 2024 URC Grant Program. Applications are **due August 29, 2024**

Grants are awarded through a competitive process and do not require non-Federal match. Eligible applicants are limited to State Historic Preservation Offices, Federally Recognized Indian Tribes, Alaska Native Villages/Corporations, Native Hawaiian Organizations (as defined by 54 USC 300309, 54 USC 300313, 54 USC 300314), [Certified Local Governments](#), and nonprofit organizations.

This grant program supports the survey, inventory, and designation of historic properties that are associated with communities currently underrepresented in the National Register of Historic Places and among National Historic Landmarks. NPS takes a broad view on the definition of underrepresented and looks for that case to be made in the application.

All funded projects must result in:

- The submission of a new nomination to the National Register of Historic Places or National Historic Landmark program, or
- An amendment to an existing National Register or National Historic Landmark nomination to include underrepresented communities.

More information and applications for this year's [URC Grants via Grants.gov P24AS00525](#).

African American Civil Rights- Preservation Grants

The [African American Civil Rights Grant Program](#) (AACR) will document, interpret, and preserve sites and stories telling the full story of the long struggle for African American civil rights from the transatlantic slave trade onwards. Governmental, tribal, and nonprofit organizations are eligible to apply. The NPS 2008 report, [Civil Rights in America, A Framework for Identifying Significant Sites](#), will serve as the reference document in determining the appropriateness of proposed projects and properties.

AACR Grants are funded by the Historic Preservation Fund (HPF), administered by the NPS, and will fund a broad range of preservation projects including survey and inventory, National Register nominations, oral histories and more. Grants are awarded through a competitive process and do not require non-Federal funding match. Congress has appropriated \$24 million in FY2024 funding for History and Preservation projects.

Applications are due **September 5, 2024**.

Grants are available to fund two types of projects: "history" and "preservation." History grants will support interpretive and research-based projects, while preservation grants will fund planning and "bricks and mortar" preservation/conservation work on historic buildings and structures.

- More information and applications for [AACR History Grants via Grants.gov - P24AS00540](#)
- More information and applications for [AACR Preservation Grants via Grants.gov - P24AS00541](#)

A third Funding Opportunity for preservation projects is also available to members of the [African American Civil Rights Network](#):

- More information and applications for [AACR AACRN Grants via Grants.gov - P24AS00542](#) Applications are due **September 5, 2024**.
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If you have specific questions about this grant programs, please reach out to stlpg@nps.gov.

Finally, the **2025 Certified Local Government Grant** program is now accepting applications and information about this grant program is available here: [Certified Local Government Grant Program | Iowa Arts & Culture \(iowaeda.com\)](#).

Thank you for your efforts in being good stewards of historic resources in Iowa. It is because of interested and concerned people like you that we can accomplish so much.

Sincerely,
Allison
