

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: September 9, 2024

Time: 3:02 pm

Meeting called to order by: Chair Hurto

ROLL CALL

Board Members Present: Hurto, Reinheimer, Peska, Bennett, Michener

Staff and Others Present: Erin Chambers, Community Development Director
Varsha Borde – City Planner
Erin Yeager – Newton Main Street
Council Member – Randy Ervin

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 Peska; 2nd by Reinheimer. Approved with corrections 5-0 VV

CERTIFICATION OF IOWA OPEN MEETINGS LAW

Borde confirms.

ITEMS FROM CITY STAFF

1. State Of Iowa Mobile Museum: Chambers submitted a new Request-a-visit form for June 2025 (during the Newton Festival)
2. Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibit: Hurto, Reinheimer, Chambers and Borde talked about the September 6th Smithsonian exhibit workshop at Grinnell. The workshop was hosted by Grinnell College and held at the Buggies factory.
One of the meetings was at the Billy Robinson meeting room. Hurto talked about Billy Robinson who was a pilot. Grinnell and would be the first to display the exhibit and it had been shipped to Grinnell. The exhibit is based on innovation, Hurto talked about individuals involved in innovation in Newton. Chambers talked about the exhibit, that it would appeal to school aged children. She said that there might consider having an open house with ribbon cutting on December 14th.
Reinheimer talked about the various displays and the workshop details. There was discussion on whether we will need insurance for the exhibit and it was decided that we do not. Hurto said that this would be a great opportunity for the Jasper County Museum to display some of their exhibits. The Smithsonian exhibit was not on a priority list for the State of Iowa, so Grinnell college covered the fees for bringing this exhibit to Iowa and offered the opportunity to other cities and towns on Iowa. Borde said the next steps would involve deciding the logistics of the exhibit like the location and the times.

There would be a meeting between City staff, Main St. and DMACC to plan the logistics. Staff will work on ordering the posters and the postcards.

ITEMS FROM COMMISSIONERS

Peska – None

Reinheimer – Already discussed above.

Bennett – Said that the RVTV event on Friday went well.

Michener –

Michener talked about the Upper Story Housing Tour 9:00 am -2 :00 pm on September 28th. There is a suggested donation of \$25. Some of the businesses that would be showcased are Christensen Development, Kitchen Concepts and The Farmer's Wife.

Hurto –

Mentioned that he spoke with Terri Cobb, the Smithsonian staffer about our country's 250th birthday celebration. The Declaration of Independence was signed on July 4, 1776, with the nation's 250th birthday officially being recognized on July 4, 2026. Cobb told Hurto that there was a lot going on but Hurto has not heard anything. Cobb also said that each state is supposed to have a commission, but Hurto has not heard of any commission for the State of Iowa. Hurto said he was the secretary of the Jasper County Bicentennial Committee in 1975-76. He will check with SHSI regarding the Semi- quincentennial celebration for the nation.

ITEMS FROM CITIZENS

Erin Yeager –

Mentioned that the Friday "RVTV" event had a great response, and the stores restaurants were busy.

The welcome parade was held at the Middle School to take traffic away from downtown.

Talked about the Fall open house. The businesses were getting ready. Gave an update on Hamilton House and Tips and Trees.

Council member Randy Ervin - Noted things around town.

Said that the football game was a success, Cardinals won the game. Coach Swede was named coach of the week. Asked about advertising for the Smithsonian Exhibit. Some options for advertising were Randy Van and the Jamie Grout podcast.

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

ADJOURNMENT

Motioned by Peska, 2nd by Bennett, Approved 5.0 by VV. 3:56 pm