Historic Preservation Commission
Meeting Agenda

Monday, January 6, 2025 - 3:00 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:

1. Review of Minutes of previous meeting 12.02.2024

III. Items from City Staff

1. Smithsonian Institution Travelling Exhibit

IV. Items from Commissioners

V. Items from Citizens

VI. Communications from the SHPO, IEDA, Dept. of Cultural Affairs, or any other entity with information relating to historic preservation.

VII. Adjourn

Chair: Larry Hurto; **Members:** Rita Reinheimer, Toni Peska, Kelly Bennett, Wes Ranard

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: December 02, 2024

Time: 3:00 pm

Meeting called to order by: Chair Hurto

ROLL CALL

Board Members Present:	Hurto, Reinheimer, Peska, Michener, Bennett
Staff and Others Present:	Erin Chambers – Community Development Director Varsha Borde – City Planner Randy Ervin - Council Member Erin Yeager – Newton Main Street Wes Ranard, Sue Ranard

---

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 Michener. Approved with corrections 5-0 VV

CERTIFICATION OF IOWA OPEN MEETINGS LAW
Borde confirms.

ITEMS FROM CITY STAFF

1. Discussion on planning for the Smithsonian Exhibit regarding unloading, volunteer setup. Signup Genius to be shared end of December.

ITEMS FROM COMMISSIONERS

Peska – none
Bennett – Mentioned that son is a social studies teacher and might come check out the exhibits. He will be able to share fliers with the school.

Michener – mentioned that Christensen Development will be doing an open house on December 10th. Fliers will help if ready by then.

Reinheimer – Discussed ideas to publicize the SPARK event at the Mainstreet Winterland market.

Hurto –Larry's HPC Report - December 2, 2024

1. *The Jasper County Board of Supervisors voted unanimously on November 5 to allocate $3,000 for preservation of the original hand-drawn blueprints of the current Jasper County Courthouse. The Courthouse, built in 1909-11, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and is the centerpiece of our historic downtown. Many thanks to the Supervisors and especially to Jasper County Maintenance Director Adam Sparks for championing this preservation initiative.*

2. *On November 14, I met with Jamie Grout to do an "Out and About with Jamie Grout" podcast to help promote the Jasper County Historical Society's 4th Annual "Tree-mendous Christmas Experience!" and "Spark! " the Smithsonian Institution display that we'll be welcoming to Newton later this month.*

3. *I have received for placement at Wittemberg Cemetery north of Newton an aluminum plaque recognizing Wittemberg Church and Cemetery's being named to the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom program on September 15, 2014. The cemetery is the final resting place of ten Jasper County residents who participated in UGRR activities. The sign was made by Bob's Custom Trophies in Indianola, IA, and I've been given the go-ahead to have one made for Newton Union Cemetery, where not only are there buried numerous UGRR operatives but also a number of freedom seekers (ex-slaves). We'll get to work on that after the first of the year. Linda K. Wormley, sexton of the Wittemberg Cemetery, recommends we install the Wittemberg plaque in the Spring.*

4. *I note that the property at 522 1st Ave. W. is for sale. Strangely enough, I couldn't find a site inventory for this property which is located within our First Avenue West Historic District.*

5. *On November 26, Mayor George personally emailed me to ask me to serve another term on the Commission. (My term apparently expires at the end of this year.) I told I would consent to that if it would be helpful.*

6. *The Jasper County Historical Society's 4th Annual "Tree-mendous Christmas Experience!" kicked off on November 30. We were fortunate to have our opening at the Museum coincide with the Thanksgiving Day holiday weekend so we had visitors from Minnesota, South Dakota, Missouri, Massachusetts, and South Carolina (!) on Saturday and Sunday - more out-of-towners than we had local folks! We also had two television photojournalists from Channels 13 and 5, and Jamie Grout stop by to interview us, so we're getting some fine media attention!*

ITEMS FROM CITIZENS

Newton Main St. Director Erin Yeager – provided updates on the Gray Moon Market that construction had started. The Venue House was now open 7 days a week and they had games and drinks available; 25 vendors had registered for the December 14th Main St. winter wonderland market.

Wes and Sue Ranard had been invited by Mayor Evelyn George to the meeting. Wes was asked to join as a commissioner on the HPC Board. Chambers gave a short introduction on the establishment of the HPC, the CLG certification, creation of the 2009 Plan for preservation and the 2011 survey of all downtown historic buildings. Hurto discussed the ‘end of year report that will be presented to City Council in January. A copy of the report has to be sent to the State.

Hurto said that an ‘End of Year’ report is due in February to be sent to the State Historic office.

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

ADJOURNMENT

Motioned by Reinheimer, 2nd by Michener, Approved 5.0 by VV. 4:09 pm

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: December 02, 2024

Time: 3:00 pm

Meeting called to order by: Chair Hurto

ROLL CALL

Board Members Present:	Hurto, Reinheimer, Peska, Michener, Bennett
Staff and Others Present:	Erin Chambers – Community Development Director Varsha Borde – City Planner Randy Ervin - Council Member Erin Yeager – Newton Main Street Wes Ranard, Sue Ranard

---

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 Michener. Approved with corrections 5-0 VV

CERTIFICATION OF IOWA OPEN MEETINGS LAW
Borde confirms.

ITEMS FROM CITY STAFF

1. Discussion on planning for the Smithsonian Exhibit regarding unloading, volunteer setup. Signup Genius to be shared end of December.

ITEMS FROM COMMISSIONERS

Peska – none
Bennett – Mentioned that son is a social studies teacher and might come check out the exhibits. He will be able to share fliers with the school.

Michener – mentioned that Christensen Development will be doing an open house on December 10th. Fliers will help if ready by then.

Reinheimer – Discussed ideas to publicize the SPARK event at the Mainstreet Winterland market.

Hurto –Larry's HPC Report - December 2, 2024

1. *The Jasper County Board of Supervisors voted unanimously on November 5 to allocate $3,000 for preservation of the original hand-drawn blueprints of the current Jasper County Courthouse. The Courthouse, built in 1909-11, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and is the centerpiece of our historic downtown. Many thanks to the Supervisors and especially to Jasper County Maintenance Director Adam Sparks for championing this preservation initiative.*

2. *On November 14, I met with Jamie Grout to do an "Out and About with Jamie Grout" podcast to help promote the Jasper County Historical Society's 4th Annual "Tree-mendous Christmas Experience!" and "Spark! " the Smithsonian Institution display that we'll be welcoming to Newton later this month.*

3. *I have received for placement at Wittemberg Cemetery north of Newton an aluminum plaque recognizing Wittemberg Church and Cemetery's being named to the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom program on September 15, 2014. The cemetery is the final resting place of ten Jasper County residents who participated in UGRR activities. The sign was made by Bob's Custom Trophies in Indianola, IA, and I've been given the go-ahead to have one made for Newton Union Cemetery, where not only are there buried numerous UGRR operatives but also a number of freedom seekers (ex-slaves). We'll get to work on that after the first of the year. Linda K. Wormley, sexton of the Wittemberg Cemetery, recommends we install the Wittemberg plaque in the Spring.*

4. *I note that the property at 522 1st Ave. W. is for sale. Strangely enough, I couldn't find a site inventory for this property which is located within our First Avenue West Historic District.*

5. *On November 26, Mayor George personally emailed me to ask me to serve another term on the Commission. (My term apparently expires at the end of this year.) I told I would consent to that if it would be helpful.*

6. *The Jasper County Historical Society's 4th Annual "Tree-mendous Christmas Experience!" kicked off on November 30. We were fortunate to have our opening at the Museum coincide with the Thanksgiving Day holiday weekend so we had visitors from Minnesota, South Dakota, Missouri, Massachusetts, and South Carolina (!) on Saturday and Sunday - more out-of-towners than we had local folks! We also had two television photojournalists from Channels 13 and 5, and Jamie Grout stop by to interview us, so we're getting some fine media attention!*

ITEMS FROM CITIZENS

Newton Main St. Director Erin Yeager – provided updates on the Gray Moon Market that construction had started. The Venue House was now open 7 days a week and they had games and drinks available; 25 vendors had registered for the December 14th Main St. winter wonderland market.

Wes and Sue Ranard had been invited by Mayor Evelyn George to the meeting. Wes was asked to join as a commissioner on the HPC Board. Chambers gave a short introduction on the establishment of the HPC, the CLG certification, creation of the 2009 Plan for preservation and the 2011 survey of all downtown historic buildings. Hurto discussed the ‘end of year report that will be presented to City Council in January. A copy of the report has to be sent to the State.

Hurto said that an ‘End of Year’ report is due in February to be sent to the State Historic office.

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

ADJOURNMENT

Motioned by Reinheimer, 2nd by Michener, Approved 5.0 by VV. 4:09 pm