



Historic Preservation Commission Meeting Agenda

Monday, February 3, 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 meeting 1.6.2025
- III. Certification of Iowa Open Meetings Law
- IV. Items from City Staff
 - 1. Election of HPC Officers for 2025
 - 2. SPARK
 - 3. SHPO CLG Annual Report 2024
- V. Items from Commissioners
- VI. Items from Citizens
- VII. Communications from the SHPO, IEDA, Dept. of Cultural Affairs, or any other entity with information relating to historic preservation.
- VIII. 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: January 06, 2025

Time: 3:02 pm

Meeting called to order by: Chair Hurto

ROLL CALL

Board Members Present:	Hurto, Ranard, Peska, Reinheimer
Board Members Absent:	Bennett
Staff and Others Present:	Erin Chambers – Community Development Director Varsha Borde – City Planner Mark Hallam - Council Member (joined at 3:09 PM) 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.

Wes Ranard introduced himself followed by round table introductions by all present. Chair Hurto recognized Tanya Michener's service to the Historic Preservation Commission and Newton Main St. Hurto then recognized Council person Randy Ervin, and noted that Council member Mark Hallam has been assigned to the HPC for 2025.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motioned by Peska; 2nd by Reinheimer. Approved with corrections 4-0 VV

CERTIFICATION OF IOWA OPEN MEETINGS LAW

Borde confirms.

ITEMS FROM CITY STAFF

1. Staff shared that the SPARK Exhibit opened on the December 30th, would be open until January 30th. There were 9 visitors so far. Peska enquired regarding volunteer duties. Discussion ensued on the doors locking after the exhibit closed for the day, kids coloring activities, talk at Gezellig's on the exhibit and other publicity such as adding a slideshow on the City cable.

ITEMS FROM COMMISSIONERS

Peska – none.

Ranard – none.

Reinheimer talked about the History 101 sessions that are offered twice a month. And shared that she had attended one.

There was discussion on the End-of-Year report regarding attending the History 101 sessions by the commissioners. This information would be added to the report.

Hurto – Larry's HPC Report attached.

ITEMS FROM CITIZENS

Newton Main St. Director Erin Yeager – provided updates on Main Street and the winter market cancellation due to weather.

A decision was made to elect officers and discuss the End-of year report at the next meeting.

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

ADJOURNMENT

Motioned by Peska, 2nd by Ranard, Approved 4.0 by VV. 3:58 pm

Larry's HPC Report – January 6, 2025

1. On December 3, the Jasper County Board of Supervisors discussed the creation of a Semiquincentennial committee to plan a celebration of our country's 250th birthday. Jasper County Maintenance Director Adam Sparks and County Conservation Director Keri Van Zante have shown interest in being part of the committee. Is there anyone on HPC that would be interested in joining this steering committee?
2. On December 10, I spoke to the Newton Rotary Club about the Jasper County Historical Society's 4th Annual "Tree-mendous Christmas Experience!" There were 35-40 interested listeners. Thanks, City Councilor Melissa Dalton, for the invitation.
3. Also, Todd Magel, KCCI 8 News Senior Reporter, was in Newton that day to reveal the \$30M plan to transform Newton's old Maytag plant into a hotel and motel complex. Community Development Director Erin Chambers got to show him around. <https://www.kcci.com/article/plan-transform-newton-maytag-plant-iowa/43130882>.
4. My article, "Masquerade ball and 'grand supper' was holiday 'event of the season' in Newton 150 years ago," appeared in the December 24, 2024 issue of *Newton News*.
5. The "Tree-mendous Christmas Experience!" at the Jasper County Museum concluded on December 29. Once again, the event was an unqualified success, IMO. 1,399 visitors enjoyed the display of more than 200 decorated Christmas trees. The Christmas Committee had a wrap-up meeting on January 2; they've determined to host the event again this year.
6. Starting December 30, I've worked five shifts during the Smithsonian Institute exhibition, "Spark!" at Building 20 in Legacy Plaza. We appreciate the involvement of the Jasper County Historical Society in helping to promote the exhibit and to lend photos and artifacts from its collections to bring a local connection to the theme. I've enjoyed the time I worked with Ms. Borde, Commissioner Reinheimer, Rachel Braafhart, Ann Leonard, and Sarah Patterson. To date we've had nine (9) visitors from Newton, Monroe, and Knoxville. We need more volunteers to work as docents and man the desk during the time the exhibition is open to the public.