



Historic Preservation Commission Meeting Agenda

Monday, March 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 previous meeting 2.3.2025
- III. Items from City Staff
- IV. Items from Commissioners
- V. Items from Citizens
- VI. Communications from SHPO, IEDA, Dept of Cultural Affairs, or any other entity with information relating to historic preservation.
- VII. Adjourn

ADA Compliance: The City of Newton is pleased to provide reasonable accommodations, in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, for those individuals or groups who require assistance in being able to participate in the meeting. Please contact the Community Development Department at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting by calling 641-792-6622 to arrange for accommodations to be provided.

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: February 03, 2025

Time: 3:00 pm

Meeting called to order by: Chair Hurto

ROLL CALL

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

Staff and Others Present: Varsha Borde – City Planner
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 Peska; 2nd by Reinheimer. Approved 5-0 VV

CERTIFICATION OF IOWA OPEN MEETINGS LAW

Borde confirms.

ITEMS FROM CITY STAFF

1. Election of HPC officers for 2025 -
Chair Hurto was elected to continue to serve as the Commission's Chair and Reinheimer was elected to serve as Vice Chair for 2025. Motion by Peska and seconded by Bennett.
2. SPARK – Discussion on the SPARK Exhibit visitors and volunteers. A total of 240 visitors saw the exhibit. There were many visitors from outside Newton. Two homeschooling groups also visited. 25 volunteers helped with running the exhibit which was open weekdays 2pm to 7 pm and on 2 Saturdays.
3. SHPO CLG Annual Report – The commissioners clarified answers to some of the questions from the 2024 end of year CLG report. Borde will be submitting the report after Chair Hurto's presentation at the February 24th Council meeting and the mayor has signed the report.

ITEMS FROM COMMISSIONERS

Peska – none

Bennett –

Ranard - none

Reinheimer –

There was discussion on lack of SPARK attendance by the City leadership.

Hurto –Larry's HPC Report Larry's HPC Report – February 3, 2025

1. On January 15, I assisted the Newton Public Library's Youth Services Librarian Phyllis Peter in showing the Smithsonian Institute exhibition, "Spark! Places of Innovation," to a group of ten homeschool learners. I also did a radio interview that day with Randy Van Roekel, of Radio Station KNIA/KRLS, in Knoxville, re: the exhibition, which had at least 135 views. One week later, one of the "homeschool mothers" brought another group of 17 to view the exhibit. Some of them were "babes in arms," so, for them, it was probably nothing more than something for the Baby Book, but the parents, in particular, expressed their gratitude for our having the display available here. It's really a shame that we didn't have that kind of a response from the public schools; Leigha Bailey tried!

Danielle Rogers's publicity for Spark! has contributed greatly to the success of the project. The posters (I assume designed and generated by her) were very well done, and we appreciate her announcement story in the Get to Know Newton magazine, as well as the newspaper ads, all of which, I'm convinced, have made a difference. Commissioner Ranard particularly has praised the three local information posters she produced, the two based on my research (and Ken Barthelman's) into industry and manufacturing and the one on the arts. They're keepers!

It was good of Photojournalist Rachael Kauffman to give us some notice on Channel 13 television (I didn't see it), and I was glad to have been able to do a radio interview with Randy Van. Chris Braunschweig from Newton News gave us a front-page story in the January 21 issue of the paper. In addition, Danielle and Erin Yeager, of Newton Main Street, gave us some social media attention.

I do think the time designated for the exhibit to be here was not great, i e., at the end of the Christmas holidays and into the start of a cold and windy new year. Still, Varsha tells me we exhibited to over 200 persons.

2. The Newton News had a story about the new Legacy Plaza housing development by Christensen Development in the January 28 edition of the paper.

3. Newton Main Street has announced a new fundraising project. I'll let Ms. Yeager to tell you more about that in her report. Thanks to Chris Braunschweig of the Newton News for the announcement story that appeared in the January 31 paper.

ITEMS FROM CITIZENS

Newton Main St. Director Erin Yeager – provided updates on Main Street.

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

ADJOURNMENT

Motioned by Peska, 2nd by Ranard, Approved 5.0 by VV. 4:08 pm