



Historic Preservation Commission Meeting Agenda

Tuesday, September 2, 2025 - 3:00 PM

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

- I. Roll Call
- II. Review of Minutes of Previous Meeting:
- III. Items from Staff
- IV. Items from Commissioners
- V. Items from Citizens
- VI. 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:** Wes Ranard, 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: August 04, 2025

Time: 3:00 pm

Meeting called to order by: Chair Hurto

ROLL CALL

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

Staff and Others Present: Erin Chambers- Community Development Director
Nicholas Alexander – City Planner

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

Motion by Ranard to approve minutes with corrections; 2nd by Peska. Approved 5-0 VV

CERTIFICATION OF IOWA OPEN MEETINGS LAW

Chambers confirms.

ITEMS FROM CITY STAFF

1. Signage for Historic Districts –The following topics were discussed.
 - a. Signage discussion continued from the previous meeting. Discussion occurred including what was possible for signs and how the commission would potentially want the signs to look. Chambers mentioned that there are many potential ways the commission could design the signs including color, and a small symbol that could be on the signs.
 - b. Chambers also noted that the City Council is having a goal setting meeting on September 29th. There would be more about the specifics at a later date.
 - c. The commission also discussed the plaque projects. As part of this discussion came up that before creating a plaque for the building, there should be prior approval/permission from the property owner.

2. Chambers explained the new open meetings law that was passed by the Iowa Legislature that went into effect on July 1, 2025. Each commissioner would need to take the training that would be required. Chambers mentioned that training videos would be distributed to the commissioners when made available.

ITEMS FROM COMMISSIONERS

Peska – None

Ranard – None

Bennett – None

Reinheimer – She mentioned at the June 2nd Meeting she would share the link to the webinar she attended but there ended up not being a link available. She mentioned that she had signed up for a new one that was held on 7/8/25 that was held by SGH Architects and the National Park Service on the “Evolution of Historic Building Systems. This was a panel discussion that was primarily focused on design and architecture.

On July 12th she attended the Newton and Grinnell Daughters of the American Revolution meeting where she presented how the commission helped to get Newton on the list for National Register of Historic Places. As part of this, they gave her money for her time and information that she presented. She inquired with Chambers on the finances for the commission. Chambers presented the finances for the commission and Reinheimer delivered the money to Chambers who receipted it in. Chambers then noted as part of this that anything that the commission has to pay \$5,000 or more for would need council approval.

Hurto – Following the June 2nd meeting, Council Member Hallam and Commissioner Hurto went to 209 W 2nd St N to photograph the National Register of Historic Places plaque on the front of the Fehleisen building. They noted a smell of gas and called the fire department. Commissioner Ranard also joined. The fire department determine the smell wasn’t sufficient enough to be a threat. The plaque on the building was also removed.

He also received a mailing from the American Association for State and Local History (AASLH) inviting the HPC to become a member. The group is more for a museum or historic site. Online training and development courses are offered as well. The mailing also mentioned the Semi quincentennial of the United States.

He joined commissioner Ranard in riding in his original 1909 Mason automobile for the July 4th parade. These were made in Des Moines by the Duesenbergs.

He also wrote a new article for Newton Main Street. The article was “The Bond Clothing Company of Newton.” It appeared in the current issue of Jasper County Living. He noted the M.A McCord house at 500 1st Ave. W. is currently up for rent and/or sale. He noted it was originally built by then-postmaster of Newton M.A. “Milt” McCord (1845-1929) in 1902, who then served as mayor from 1923-1924.

On July 22nd, he emailed Leslie Held, co-owner of Bob’s custom trophies in Indianola regarding the Historic Downtown District Street signs. She responded the next day to let him know that was outside of their area of expertise. She referred him to John Parker at John Parker signs also in Indianola. He emailed Mr. Parker and has not heard back from him.

On August 5th, he is going to be addressing Chapter AO, P. E. O., on his latest book, Newton Main Street’s Stories from Downtown.

He also mentioned that Commissioner Ranard and himself were going to be attending a conference in September on the Ho-Chunk Turkey River Reservation and Restoration. He checked with the other commissioners to see if they were planning or wanting to go. Other commissioners said they would be unable to attend.

ITEMS FROM CITIZENS –

None

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

The commission discussed the closure of the State Historical Society Research Center in Iowa City.

ADJOURNMENT

Motioned by Peska, 2nd by Reinheimer, Approved 5-0 by VV. 3:48 pm