



Historic Preservation Commission Meeting Agenda

Monday, November 3, 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. Certification of Iowa Open Meetings Law
- IV. Items from City Staff
- 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

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: October 06, 2025

Time: 3:00 pm

Meeting called to order by: Chair Hurto

ROLL CALL

Board Members Present: Hurto, Reinheimer, Ranard, Bennett

Board Members Absent: Peska

Staff and Others Present: Varsha Borde – Senior City Planner
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 Reinheimer to approve minutes; 2nd by Bennett. Approved 4-0 VV

CERTIFICATION OF IOWA OPEN MEETINGS LAW

Borde confirms.

ITEMS FROM CITY STAFF

1. Signage for Historic Districts -
 - a. Borde presented the map that detailed the locations of all the current street sign markers are within the Historic District. The commission then went into discussion to determine if all street signs in the District should change, or only certain signs like those located at the boundaries of the historic district. The commission discussed this and came to a consensus that it might be best to not change every sign, but rather be strategic when picking the sign locations.
 - b. The commission also decided that brown should be the color for the signage. There was also discussion about if there should be wording on the signs. Chair Hurto asked everyone

to do some research and prepare something for the next meeting in regards to if there is wording that should be included.

2. Open Meetings Training -

- a. Borde mentioned that there appears to be an open meeting training course that is available. She mentioned that it appears to be for all boards and commissions.
- b. Reinheimer mentioned that Erin Chambers had noted this at a previous meeting that a course would potentially need to be completed.
- c. Borde noted that she would check with Erin Chambers to see if this is the training course that the boards and commissions need to complete. She mentioned that she would send more information out when she knows more information.

ITEMS FROM COMMISSIONERS

Peska – None.

Ranard – None

Reinheimer –None.

Bennett- Commissioner Bennet presented the image below to the commission which is a picture taken along N 2nd Ave E. The commission discussed the timeframe of this photo, including where this photo would've been taken from. Commissioner Reinheimer discussed more details about this picture including information about the photographer. Commissioner Bennett also noted after Commissioner Hurto's report that the Scenic Iowa Show on PBS had an episode that discussed Fort Atkinson where Commissioner Hurto and Ranard attended the Conference.



Hurto – Below is Commissioner Hurto's Historic Preservation Commission Report that he presented at this meeting.

Larry's HPC Report — October 6th, 2025

1. I received another mailing from the American Association for State and Local History (AASLH) inviting HPC to become a member. This organization apparently believes we operate a museum or historic site. They offer online training and development courses, and specifically mention the Semiquincentennial of the United States.
2. The M. A. McCord House, 500 1st Ave. W. , was sold by Jeremy Dittmer, of Iowa Realty. It was built by then-postmaster of Newton M. A. "Milt" McCord (1845-1929), in 1902, who would later (1923-24) serve as mayor of the city. It was later known as The Marmion Apartments.
3. Commissioner Ranard and I attended the Conference on the Ho-Chunk Turkey River Reservation and Restoration of Fort Atkinson September 17 at St. Lucas, IA.

The two speakers that I particularly enjoyed were President Jon Greendeer, of the Ho-Chunk Tribal Nation, and the Rt. Rev. Terry Landsgaard. They spoke on the removal from Wisconsin to Neutral Ground in N. E. Iowa Territory the Winnebago Indians in 1840; they were removed to Minnesota in 1848. Kathy Gourley, retired archaeologist and historian, formerly with SHPO, spoke on the most recent extensive restoration completed in 2024 of Fort Atkinson, a frontier fort built in 1840 that was abandoned in 1849. Regulars who had been stationed there went south to fight the Mexicans in 1846. – Commissioner Hurto also noted that this would fill the educational requirement for the board.

4. On September 24, I did a walking tour of Historic Fred Maytag Park District with Parks Recreation Specialist Liz Ventling. It was a perfect day weatherwise.
5. The Fehleisen Building, 209-211 W. 2nd St. N. , has finally been taken down. For the latest developments, see Newton News, October 3, 2025.
6. Ryan Dannen, who owns Ryan's Tire & Auto, told me his mother, Terry, bought a lot of bound Newton newspapers at a Garage Sale held at the old newspaper office, for \$2,000.

ITEMS FROM CITIZENS –

None

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

None

ADJOURNMENT

Motioned by Reinheimer, 2nd by Bennett, Approved 4-0 by VV. Adjourned at 3:44 pm