

**MINUTES OF THE CITY OF PELLA
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
FEBRUARY 8, 2021**

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chairperson Kermode called the Historic Preservation Commission to order in the Public Safety Complex at 5:07 p.m. Members present were: Don André, Bruce Boertje, Rhonda Kermode, and Lila Turnbull. Staff present: Assistant City Administrator Corey Goodenow and the Deputy City Clerk. Due to heightened public health risks associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, accommodations were made to broadcast this meeting via conference call. No members of the public joined the conference call.

APPROVAL OF TENTATIVE AGENDA

Motion by Boertje, second by D. André to approve the tentative agenda. Motion carried 4-0.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by D. André, second by Turnbull to approve the minutes from the January 20, 2021 meeting. Motion carried 4-0.

NEW BUSINESS

**Consideration of a Resolution Recognizing and Supporting Friends of the Pella
Community Center's Initiative and Efforts Related to the Preservation of the Pella
Community Center**

The City of Pella's Historic Preservation Commission wishes to recognize and support the efforts to preserve and renovate Pella's historic Community Center building, located at 712 Union Street, and constructed in 1916.

Further, this commission wishes to acknowledge and commend the efforts of the non-profit organization Friends of the Pella Community Center for taking the initiative and providing funding to place the building on the National Register of Historic Places, for hiring an architect to provide potential renovation concepts, and for laying the groundwork for fundraising in support of an eventual building renovation.

Motion by Boertje, second by D. André to adopt the resolution as presented. Motion carried 4-0.

OTHER BUSINESS/WORK SESSION

Pella Fire Station Update

Kermode shared that if the Pella Fire Station is eligible for placement on the National Register of Historic Places, then the Commission could request a field services consultation by an architect in order to formulate a plan for the Pella Fire Station rehabilitation. She said she will update the Commission as she learns more about this process.

Discussion of Future Potential Historic Overlay Zone Locations with the City of Pella

The Commission discussed potential areas that could be considered for another historic district. Several areas that were brought up for further review included East and West Washington Street, sections of East First, East Second, and East Third Streets, sections of East Franklin Street, sections of Liberty Street, areas near West Market Park, Downtown Pella, North Main Street, and West Columbus Street. Assistant City Administrator Corey Goodenow stated that staff had created a map of historic homes within the City of Pella and that he would bring it to the next Commission meeting. Turnbull suggested focusing on areas with properties that are the most likely to be threatened and need the protection of a historic district.

Kermode stated that reviewing a home's abstract would be a good way to gather information for site inventory forms. D. André stated he would reach out to State Historical Society of Iowa Architectural Historian Sara André to get clarification regarding the requirements for the creation of a historical district.

D. André asked about signage for the City's historic districts. Goodenow said he would review what the Commission had discussed at previous meetings. D. André suggested plywood as an option for budget-friendly sign material.

D. André said he will check with Candace De Penning as a potential individual to fill the Commission's vacancy. The application for appointment to City of Pella's boards and commissions is available on the City of Pella website.

Kermode said that due to the current COVID-19 pandemic, it is unlikely that plans for an Earth Day historic preservation event will proceed this year.

Boertje asked about the status of the City pursuing designation as a Certified Local Government (CLG). Goodenow stated that he would research whether there is an application deadline and what the timeline is for the application process. Boertje agreed to compile some information on potential historic district areas and will send it to Goodenow for distribution to the Commission.

Adjourned at 6:00 p.m.