

**MINUTES OF THE CITY OF PELLA
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
JUNE 8, 2020**

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chairperson Kermode called the Historic Preservation Commission to order in the City Hall Conference Room at 5:00 p.m. Members present were: Don André, Bruce Boertje, Rhonda Kermode, Chris Meyers, and Lila Turnbull. Staff present: Planning and Zoning Director Matthew Lepke. No members of the public were present.

APPROVAL OF TENTATIVE AGENDA

Motion by Boertje, second by André to approve the tentative agenda. Motion carried 5-0.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by André, second by Boertje to approve the minutes from the March 9, 2020 meeting. Motion carried 5-0.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

OTHER BUSINESS/WORK SESSION

Discussion of the Preserve Iowa Summit

Chairperson Kermode shared what she learned from watching the Iowa State Historic Preservation Office's (SHPO) Preserve Iowa Summit online. Highlights included discussion of other cities' ordinances, grants available for weed control, the benefits of certified local government (CLG) status, and possibly promoting preservation on Earth Day, as the phrase "the greenest building is an old building" made an impression on her.

Local Preservation Discussion

Kermode said she is worried that much of the original fabric of downtown is being lost or covered up, so it is important that the Commission educate and provide resources to the community on historic preservation topics. Meyers suggested putting an article in the City newsletter or on the City's social media pages asking people to reach out to the Commission if they have questions on historic preservation. Kermode suggested that the Commission compile a list of resources to give to members of the public who have questions on historic preservation topics. Lepke stated that this information could also be posted on the City's website.

Kermode mentioned that she knows of one community in Iowa that gives a mix of forgivable and low-interest loans to homeowners doing historic preservation improvements on their homes, which is funded through tax increment financing. She said this is something the City could look into offering locally.

Meyers shared his concerns with the repairs that need to be done on the hose tower at the old fire station.

Discussion of the Collegiate Neighborhood Historic District Designation Application

Kermode reported that she reached out to two more homeowners and is waiting to hear back from them. André said there has been an ownership change for one of the properties whose owner had originally signed the petition to be part of the overlay zone. He questioned whether the new owner would now need to sign the petition. There is another home in the district that is currently for sale. Kermode said that if they have enough property owners in favor of the historic district overlay zone, staff should proceed with submitting the updated application to SHPO for consideration. The Commission agreed and directed Lepke to send the application to SHPO after confirming the petition meets the 51% threshold requirement.

Discussion of Meeting Time

The Commissioners indicated their support for changing future meetings from 5:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. on the second Monday of the month.

Motion by Turnbull, second by André to move the Commission's meetings to 5:00 p.m. on the second Monday of the month. Motion carried 5-0.

Map of Pella's Historic Homes

Boertje mentioned that he provided former Zoning Administrator Bryce Johnson with a list of historic homes in Pella and would like to know whether Johnson had a chance to map them before he left the City of Pella.

Adjourned at 5:58 p.m.