

McGregor Historic Preservation Commission
Monthly Meeting
June 10, 2021

The McGregor Historic Preservation Commission met at McGregor City Hall on June 10, 2021. Members attending were City Representative Duane Boelman, Bob Clark, Joseph Brooks, Dave Kneer, Sheila Oberreuter, City Council Liaison Rogeta Halvorson, and Commission Adviser Michelle Pettit.

The meeting was called to order at 6:05p.m.

Previous Minutes

Joe made a motion to approve the May 13, 2021 minutes, seconded by Dave and approved.

Commission Officers

The Commission discussed needing a commission president. Duane noted the primary duty of the president has been to preside over meetings. No one stepped forward to be president. Dave suggested having a rotating president preside at meetings. Duane stated he would check with the State to find out if that would be acceptable.

McGregor's 175th Anniversary Activities

Joe had Supreme Graphics make signs for the graves for the cemetery. Joe also spoke with Tom Sauer at the Fire Department meeting. Tom Sauer stated the Fire Department will display the old original Fire Wagon during their annual fundraising. Michelle met with Audrey Posten and discussed characters for a Ghosts of McGregor Walk. Michelle said she will work on scripts for the skits. Michelle will contact Jim and Laurie Klosterboer about whether they can assist again with scheduling, casting and costumes.

Hardware Store and Alexander Hotel

Duane announced Jeff Westphal now officially owns the Hardware Store and the Alexander Hotel, and that Westphal will own it until a new non-profit is formed. Westphal will provide \$50,000 seed money for the non-profit, potentially to be called the "McGregor Holding Company". The non-profit "Holding Company" will be for saving distressed buildings in McGregor. Josh Levine, who works for Westphal, is taking care of filing the non-profit status. The Board of Directors for the Holding Company are: Brent Grinna, Christina Dollhausen, Duane Boelman,, David Staples, and Joan Burns.

Methodist Church

Joe spoke with District Supervisor Harlan Gillespie. Gillespie is offering to transfer the Methodist Church building and the ground it sits on from his non-profit to our non-profit. Duane noted that it is allowable by the city ordinance for the city to have temporary ownership. Dave made a motion and Joe seconded, to request at the Council meeting for the city to take temporary ownership of the Methodist Church. Motion approved.

Joe said that the United Methodist Church will continue to insure the building during the interim period. Joe has been working on getting a non-profit formed, although now that the McGregor Holding Company is being formed, this may be a building for the Holding Company.

The Commission discussed getting more public support and attention for these buildings. Dave suggested filming the buildings and sharing online on a website. Duane stated he will start a Facebook page for the McGregor Historic Preservation Commission. Joe suggested we could have an open house of the buildings.

Preserve Iowa Summit

Commission members discussed some of the summit workshops and noted that the link to the archives should be available soon.

The meeting adjourned at 7:05p.m.

Michelle Pettit, Secretary