

McGregor Historic Preservation Commission
Monthly Meeting
July 8, 2021

The McGregor Historic Preservation Commission met at McGregor City Hall on July 8, 2021. Members attending were City Representative Duane Boelman, Joseph Brooks, Dave Kneer, Sheila Oberreuter, and Commission Adviser Michelle Pettit.

Duane called the meeting to order at 6:01p.m.

Previous Minutes

Dave made a motion to approve the June 10, 2021 minutes, seconded by Sheila and approved.

HPC Facebook page

Duane presented the Facebook page he created called the McGregor, IA Historic Preservation Commission. One of Duane's first posts was about the glass at the old First National Bank Building (Left Bank Shop and Gallery) including this information, "Recently uncovered transom windows revealed historic prism glass, including glass tiles in a flower pattern designed in 1897 by Frank Lloyd Wright. Although the transom is not original to the 1860s building, it is an integral part of its history and its evolution as a commercial building." Duane said that so far that post reached 8,465 people. Duane made Commission members who are also on Facebook admins on the Historic Preservation Commission page.

Commission Officers

Tabled.

175th Anniversary Activities

Dependent on the weather, the firemen will hold a Fish Fry at Triangle Park and will bring the original hand-pulled Hook and Ladder from 1874. The commission may do Historical Skits the third weekend in October. Michelle noted she will speak to Laurie Klosterboer about helping with historical skit casting as she did last time.

Hardware Store and Alexander Hotel

Duane shared that Jeff Westphal was here a few weeks ago and did a walk through of both the Hardware Store and the Alexander Hotel. The structural engineer who was here in 2017 is returning on July 9th to reassess the Hardware Store and whether we can use his original recommendations. Joe reported that the museum plans to work with consultant Cynthia Sweet, the Executive Director of the Iowa Museum Association, on the museum's Bylaws and plans. Duane noted it was the first time he was in the upstairs of the Alexander Hotel and it has many historical features. Luis is keeping the restaurant in the Alexander Hotel open to the end of October.

Methodist Church

Joe reported that the United Methodist Conference is going to gift the McGregor United Methodist church building. It will be on the McGregor Council agenda on July 28th whether to approve that the city takes temporary ownership until the church can get into the hands of a non-profit. Joe has been reaching out to community members to garner support.

SRF Request for Consultation

McGregor's Main Street Reconstruction project will start next year. The Commission agreed to take part in any negotiations regarding the historical impacts of this project.

Colgate/Flemming House 327 Kinney

There was a fire at the apartment building on the corner of Kinney and Center Streets on July 2nd. The fire was contained to one apartment, but there was smoke damage throughout the building. No one was injured, however all the residents were displaced. George Colgate originally built the house in 1862. Jack Flemming added substantially to the home in 1874. Jan Full advised using historic disaster funds.

Other Business

Dave noted he'd been sharing historical emails with members. He spoke to members on the need for a chairman for the commission and about the duties of a chairman.

The meeting adjourned at 7:05p.m.

Michelle Pettit, Secretary