

Unapproved Minutes
Historical Preservation Commission
Wednesday February 5, 2020 Regular Meeting

The regular meeting of the Vermillion Historical Preservation Commission was called to order in the Large Conference Room at City Hall on February 5, 2020 at 9:01 a.m.

1. Roll Call

Present: Susan Keith Gray, Gloria Hensley, Ed Gerrish, Dietrik Vanderhill, Cindy Chaney

Absent: Jim Wilson, William Dendinger

Staff present: Jose Dominguez (City Engineer), James Purdy (Assistant City Manager), and Jim Goblirsch (Parks and Rec Director)

2. Adoption of the Agenda

Hensley motions to adopt the agenda with the addition of item 5d. Discussion Regarding Historic Thompson House, second by Gerrish. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Approval of the Minutes

Chaney moved to adopt the January 8, 2020 minutes with corrections, seconded by Hensley. The motion carried unanimously.

4. Visitors to be Heard

None

5. Old Business

5a. Prentis Park Archway Feature Renovations.

James Goblirsch (Parks and Rec Director) stated that City staff has been in contact with the South Dakota State Historical Society (SHPO) regarding the Archway project. Staff explained the project to SHPO and asked if as a result of the project the columns and archways could become a non-contributing factor and affect the park's historic design designation. SHPO explained that although it is preferred for the original bricks to be reused, or replaced with the similar historically accurate bricks, they realized that this is not always possible. Staff explained that the plan is to reuse as many of the existing bricks as possible so that each of the columns is made up of a majority of reused bricks. Goblirsch reported that his understanding is that this was acceptable to SHPO and that the work would not remove the park off the register, and the archways would maintain their contributing status. Goblirsch and Dominguez discussed a sketch of the project with the Commission, explaining that more than likely the new bricks, which will be at the top of the archways once they are rebuilt, will be a slightly smaller size than the originals. Goblirsch stated that the type and size of brick used during the original construction of the archways is extremely difficult to locate. Goblirsch stated that City staff and the local

mason doing the work will continue to look for historically accurate bricks, but that even if they are found it may be cost prohibitive. Goblirsch and Dominguez also reported that the project no longer qualifies for a grant they were applying for, since all of the materials used will not be original. Discussion followed. City staff will bring some follow up questions to the SHPO.

5b. Clay County Courthouse Presentation.

Jim Stone with the Clay County Historical Society spoke at length about the County's proposal to potentially build a new courthouse and jail at a remote location. Stone presented a letter to the Commission that the Historical Society sent to the County Commissioners. Stone stated that the position of the Historical Society is that the existing courthouse should be preserved and renovated, and that the County should look at building on an addition to the existing courthouse. Discussion followed. City staff reported that the building committee met with the City Council at the February 3, 2020 noon meeting, and that the County provided the Council with an update on the process. City staff explained that the City is a tenant in the Clay County Public Safety Center, so the County's actions affect the facility that the Vermillion Police Department and the Clay Area Emergency Services Communication Center utilize. City staff reported that the City Council did not take any action regarding the project at the meeting. Discussion followed. Some members of the Commission may attend future public meetings regarding the courthouse.

5c. Update on S University Historic District Report.

Ed Gerrish reported that after speaking with Liz Almlie at the SHPO, it was determined that the next step in the establishment of the new historic district will be more expensive than previously anticipated. There is a significant amount of research on the properties that needs to be completed by a professional firm. The Commission will be in continued discussions with the SHPO to pursue any grant opportunities that may be available.

5d. Discussion Regarding Historic Thompson House (added)

The Commission discussed the eventual demolition of the historic Thompson house. Cyndy Chaney reported that there is no timetable on the demolition. The Commission discussed the possibility of working with the USD Foundation on salvaging some of the materials from the house. Discussion followed. It was reported that the W.H. Over Museum may also be interested in designing an exhibit for the house that may include some of the salvaged materials.

6. New Business

6a. Possible Small Cell Poles on USD Campus

City staff presented the Commission with a letter the City Manager received regarding some possible small cell telecommunications poles

that may be placed on USD campus. The City does not have jurisdiction over permits that take place on USD campus. The letter will be forwarded to the SHPO.

6b. Discussion Regarding CLG Annual Report

City staff presented a preliminary draft of the CLG annual report. The Commission was asked to review several of the items and provide feedback. An updated version of the report will be presented to the Commission at a future meeting.

7. Adjourn

Moved by Gerrish to adjourn, seconded by Chaney. Motion carried unanimously. Keith Gray declared the meeting adjourned at 10:17 a.m.