

Minutes of the Adel Historic Preservation Commission
17 January 2017 at City Hall – 8:00 p.m.

Members Present: Heith Hockenberry, Rich Hughes, and Vonz Odem. **Absent:** Deb Christensen and Tom Hagen. **City:** Anthony Brown.

Chair Rich Hughes called the meeting to order at 8:03 p.m.

Minutes: As the commission did not meet in December 2016, there were no minutes.

Museum: Hughes asked that the meeting begin with an update on the Adel Historical Museum's Kinnick Addition project. Brown noted that the project had been officially completed in December 2016 and that the final payment was made last week. Brown stated that Museum Director Jan Price would like to open the new addition during the 38th Annual Adel Sweet Corn Festival, which will be held on Saturday, August 12, 2017. The addition's interior will need to be furnished, and Price is working to raise more funds to help with these efforts. Hughes suggested that Price speak with service clubs like the Lions and others, as they could possibly help raise money.

Certified Local Government (CLG) Annual Report: Because the City is a member of the State Historical Preservation Office's Certified Local Government program, the commission is required to submit an annual report by February 28. Hughes asked Hockenberry to submit his biographical sketch for the report. The commission discussed that much of the information on last year's report could be used to prepare this year's report.

As for trainings that the report requires, Hockenberry noted that he will be looking into a webinar soon. Hughes noted that he and Christensen attended the State's 2016 Historic Preservation Summit in Davenport last September. The commission discussed the 2017 Summit, which will be held June 8 – 10 in Fort Dodge. Brown will remind the commission in the next few months. The City will pay for the registration fee and will offer a partial reimbursement of expenses like last year.

Hughes asked whether 105 N. 9th is on the National Register. Brown was uncertain, so Hughes said that he would look into it further. Brown noted that the building, which was formerly owned by Esther Boatman, was recently purchased for \$40,000. The new owners are looking to run their clothing business out of the building and possibly rent the apartment upstairs. Brown stated that the new owners are looking into applying for the City's Historic Preservation Grant. The commission noted that the building's façade has a seven year easement from the recent CDBG Façade Project.

The commission asked about the "big blue" house on the corner of 10th and Greene Streets. Brown noted that Rally Cap Investments had purchased the property and are looking to renovate it. Rally Cap may rent it out to a restaurant or insurance firm. Brown stated that the parking requirements may become an issue depending on what entities go into the house.

Design Guidelines: Hughes stated that the lack of funding is the significant hurdle for the design guidelines project. The commission noted that the Dallas County Foundation (DCF) Grant deadline was quickly approaching. Hughes noted that Adel City Council Member Shirley McAdon had suggested that it would be two to three years before any funding was available from the City. Hughes noted that the DCF likes to see physical projects, and this project would not be something that they could advertise.

Hughes stated that the commission's options would be to pursue the DCF grant, ask the City, or get temporary design guideline recommendations approved by the council. The commission agreed that it would be helpful for the State to offer state-wide design guidelines or allow cheaper options to be used.

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Odem stated that she would like to move forward with the design guidelines. Hockenberry asked whether the commission could raise the funds for the design guidelines from business owners.

The commission agreed that a set of voluntary guidelines would be a “step up” from the current situation. Voluntary guidelines or plans would allow the commission to speak with building owners, gather their reactions, and possibly raise funds as well. Hughes stated that he will draft up a set of voluntary design guidelines for the commission to consider in February.

CLG: The commission reviewed the other items on the CLG report. Brown noted that the report must be signed by Mayor Peters before it could be submitted to the State. Hughes asked Brown to check with Hagen on whether Hagen would like to remain with the commission, as Hagen has been quite busy with his job.

Other: The commission briefly discussed issuing a “Historic Preservation At Its Best” award for the Russell Abstract building on the square. Brown will look into the process and when it was last done.

Trivia Question: Hughes will determine a question and noted an anecdote about bus drivers for ADM.

Other: Brown informed the commission that the council will hold a public hearing on Monday, January 23 regarding the proposed Main Street project.

The **next regular meeting** of the Adel Historic Preservation Commission will be 21 February 2017 at 8:00 pm at City Hall.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Anthony Brown
City Administrator