

Minutes of the Adel Historic Preservation Commission

June 16, 2020 at Adel City Hall – 8:00 p.m.

Members Present: Deb Christensen, Bob Hall, Rich Hughes, Vonz Odem. **Absent:** Cori Howard. **City:** None. **Guests:** None.

Chair Rich Hughes called the meeting to order at 8:05 p.m.

Grant Application: 801 Main Street (former Reich Law Office). AHPC received the powerpoint (ppt) renderings from Pella for windows for 801 Main work that includes: 1) an original perspective (ppt slide 1), 2) option presented by Val Sutton at the May 5 special meeting with full pane windows with transoms removed on the North and East (ppt slides 2 and 4), and 3) option requested by AHPC with window replacements that include transoms on the North and East (ppt slides 3 and 5). Several members noted that the organization of the ppt was confusing. Total cost estimates from Pella have increased to \$32,000 with the inclusion of the transom windows. Given the visual prominence of the building on the square and on the Highway 169 corridor, as well as its inclusion in the Historic District, Commission members felt that it was important to maintain the historic aesthetic as much as possible, including retention of the transoms on both East facing (Hwy 169) and North facing (courthouse square) public aspects. Deb moved that we recommend to City Council approval of \$10,000 for window and door work that includes transoms for North and East facing windows as displayed on slides 3 and 5 of the rendering. Vonz seconded, passed unanimously. Rich will prepare the findings report with images of the selected renderings to reduce confusion on which option we are recommending and send to Anthony for presentation at the next City Council meeting on July 14th (6 pm). AHPC members are encouraged to attend (virtually if necessary).

Plaques: Rich has identified ten properties for plaques. These are:

105 North 9th Street – Chapman & March Grocery, well documented

107 North 9th Street – Adel State Bank, well documented

715 Main Street – Scott Hospital, well documented

805 Main Street – JW Bly Grocery, well documented

811 Main Street – Wright Shoe (1906, but fire in 1907 took out some buildings)

813 Main Street – EL Lang Clothing Company

815 Main Street – Land Office, well documented

817 Main Street – Houghton Drug & Militia Armory

819 Main Street – Reston Drug (1909), later Fowlers Drug (1921). Reston Drug will be used on the plaque

906 Main Street – GW Williams Grocery & VFW Pool Hall

Rich sent this information to Paula Mohr, SHPO, for approval, but she was concerned that three of the plaques included the word “store” and seven did not. She would like them all to be the same and recommended inclusion of the word “store” on all plaques. AHPC members recalled that Phase I plaques funded by Dallas County Foundation did not include the word “store,” so the Commission recommended removing the word “store” from the final three. Paula also took issue with the use of the phrase “Adel

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Historic District,” as this is technically the “Adel Public Square Historic District.” Discussion on Phase I wording of plaques found that the inclusion of “Public Square” required either the reduction in font to a size that was unreadable or added an additional line to the plaque, which would have raised the cost per plaque above the funding provided and made the wording appear crowded. Therefore, the Commission felt that “Adel Historic District” was appropriately representative without becoming overly wordy, illegible, or increasing cost. Use of similar terminology is planned for Phase II to maintain continuity. Rich will resubmit the plaque wording to SHPO. Following SHPO approval, Rich will approach the \$500 donor and, finally, request the \$30 contribution from each building owner/tenant.

Preservation Iowa Summit: Was held virtually June 4-6, and Rich, Bob, Vonz, and Deb each attended some of the sessions virtually, and recorded sessions have been made available for viewing today and will remain available through August 31. Annual training by at least one Commission member is required to maintain CLG status.

All attending felt that the keynote was exceptional, but that the virtual Zoom setting did have some limitations and technical issues. Vonz reported that one session she attended found that Historic Preservation Commissions were more effective and efficient when roles were specialized so that members could use their professional talents to aid project development. Deb suggested the creation of a “Friends of AHPC” group that could serve a similar purpose in recruiting citizens with unique talents to aid our various projects, in addition to the skillsets that each already brings to the Commission. For example, the “Friends” group could include an IT specialist, an architect, and attorney, etc.

Historic Properties: Deb noted that the Adel Bridge is also on the National Register of Historic Places, but does not get the recognition that the downtown district does. Rich noted the engineer’s report that found the bridge to be in exceptionally poor condition. Deb suggested we consider nominating the bridge for inclusion on Iowa’s Most Endangered Properties list via SHPO as a way to gain attention to the structure. Vonz will investigate what this requires and how to proceed.

Preservation at Its Best Award: May was Historic Preservation Month. Rich reported that the Citizenship Award to recognize Aaron Crow for his work in developing the interactive website platform is prepared, but not the award for Iconic Apparel. There were concerns about how these awards could physically be presented as the City Council has been meeting remotely during the COVID pandemic. Commission members suggested that each awardee could meet individually at City Hall with Anthony and Rich (all masked) for award presentations and a photo op.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:53 p.m.

The **next regular meeting** of the Adel Historic Preservation Commission is scheduled for July 21, 2020, at 8:00 p.m. at Adel City Hall with social distancing practices in place.

Respectfully submitted

Deb Christensen

AHPC Secretary