

**MINUTES
CITY OF AMES
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION**

Date: February 13, 2023	Edith Hunter	2023
	Susan Minks *	2024
Call to Order: 6:00PM	Angie Kolz	2024
Place: Council Chambers	Mary Jo Winder	2024
	Matt Oakley*	2023
Adjournment: 6:34PM	Jesse David Chariton	2023

[*Absent]

CALL TO ORDER: Mary Jo Winder, Vice-Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

MOTION: (Chariton/Kolz) to approve the agenda for the meeting of February 13, 2023.

MOTION PASSED: (4-0)

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF JANUARY 09, 2023:

MOTION: (Chariton/Hunter) to approve the Minutes of the meeting of January 9, 2023, with edits. Ms. Hunter noted on Page 8, the second sentence in the last paragraph should say, "the chamber will do a solicitation for sponsors."

MOTION PASSED: (4-0)

PUBLIC FORUM: Michael Belding introduced himself as a PhD Candidate in the Department of History at Iowa State University. Mr. Belding offered his expertise to the Commission for future preservation projects. He briefly discussed his dismissal from the intensive survey project for Chautauqua Park and agrees with the letter from Ms. Winder discussed at the January Commission meeting. Mr. Belding spoke further on issues not under the purview of the Commission.

UPDATE ON CHAPTER 31 RECOMMENDATION

Ms. Winder presented the information in her memo to the Historic Preservation Commission regarding standards for new construction of buildings and additions to existing buildings in the Old Town Historic District. She believes Chapter 31 of the Municipal Code conflicts with the Secretary of the Interior Standards because it advocates for replication of historic styles. She said the Code specifies the Secretary of the Interior Standards as what the Commission uses

for their guidelines. The changes the Commission have discussed so far have been procedural in nature.

Ms. Winder asked Ray Anderson, staff liaison and Planner for the City of Ames, when regulations were included in Chapter 31 that address procedures for obtaining a Certificate of Appropriateness, and the reference to Secretary of the Interior Standards. Mr. Anderson responded that he would need to look back at the records to determine when those provisions in the Code were added. The Old Town Historic District was established in 1989 and design criteria were part of the original ordinance.

Ms. Winder said the emphasis needs to be more on compatibility than on Design Criteria.

Edith Hunter, Commission Member, asked why the Commission would want to remove the requirement regarding allowed historic styles, as described in the Design Criteria.

Ms. Winder read aloud a portion of the Secretary of the Interior Standards. She said part of the Historic Preservation objective is education. The requirements for historic style may trick the public into thinking something is historic when it is not. She said the four methods of preservation are what they must be when working on a project in a Historic District.

Ms. Hunter said she could see the intent when Chapter 31 was originally written. She said the only house that has been built in the district portrays the Victorian style. She stated that people who would build in that area would be sensitive to the idea. She questioned what would stop someone from building something unsightly if the requirement is removed.

Ms. Winder said it would be expensive to build an Italianate house here, for example. She felt that legally, the Commission needs to discern what makes the ordinance defensible. It is hard to determine if a modern design would be compatible, but it could be done.

Mr. Anderson asked if Ms. Winder's concern was regarding building an entirely new building or adding on to an existing building. Ms. Winder said she is concerned about both. Mr. Anderson said there are basic guidelines for things such as siding, windows, and other basic elements. He did not see those as being onerous to someone building a new house. He said there was only one new house that was built in the Old Town district, and it was a replacement for a one that was destroyed by a fire. The builder chose one of the nine styles in the Design Guidelines. Mr. Anderson said he didn't see a conflict with the Secretary of the Interior Standards.

Ms. Winder said the definitions of the allowed styles directs an applicant, the Commission, and Planning as to what the requirements are. She said the Design Criteria educates on the characteristics of each style. Ms. Winder said the wording on procedure is where she felt the problem was.

Ms. Kolz asked what the proposed change would be.

Ms. Winder said the wording would include a new principal structure and addition and features should be compatible with the character of the district and reference the Design Criteria. She thought there needs to be more information on looking at what's already within the vicinity. She said the emphasis should be on compatibility rather than the Design Criteria.

Mr. Chariton said he read it as being for new construction and not structures that falsely looked old.

Ms. Winder said she can think of commercial examples that honor the feel of the Historic District. She said it can be done but requires more understanding of design. She said rewording would not close out the possibility of someone putting in a colonial cottage.

Mr. Chariton said this would also apply to any future districts as far as changes they would make.

Ms. Winder said she will write a new memo further clarifying her thoughts for the next meeting.

UPDATE ON 2023 HISTORIC PRESERVATION AWARDS NOMINATIONS

Mr. Anderson said one nomination has been submitted for consideration. Nominations are open until the 24th of this month. At the next March meeting, the Commission will decide which nominations will receive an award.

Ms. Winder said she contacted two people for their contributions. She spoke to Alex at the History Museum about the Ames Pantorium building that will now be part of the Ames History Museum. She does not know if we will receive an award nomination for the person who owned the Ames Pantorium.

Ms. Kolz said she will be submitting a nomination as well.

UPDATE ON 2023 PARTICIPATION IN DOWNTOWN AMES 515 WEEK IN MAY

Ms. Hunter said she had hoped to have an update, but she reached out to contacts twice and has not heard back from anyone. Once she gets responses, she will share with everyone.

COMMISSION COMMENTS:

Ms. Kolz said in the Commission Work Plan, one action item is to share information with the Old Town District through their newsletter. In the February newsletter a writeup about tax credits was distributed to residents.

STAFF COMMENTS

Mr. Anderson said Historic Preservation Award Nominations are due Thursday, February 23rd by 5PM.

MOTION TO ADJOURN:

MOTION: (Hunter/Chariton) to adjourn the meeting.

MOTION PASSED: (4-0)

The meeting adjourned at 6:34PM.

Mary Jo Winder, Vice-Chairperson
Historic Preservation Commission

Laura Colebrooke, Recording Secretary
Department of Planning & Housing