

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

CITY OF DAVENPORT, IOWA

TUESDAY, MARCH 9, 2021; 5:00 PM

CITY HALL, 226 W 4TH ST, COUNCIL CHAMBERS

A PARTIALLY ELECTRONIC MEETING IS BEING HELD BECAUSE A FULLY "IN PERSON" MEETING IS IMPRACTICAL DUE TO CONCERNS FOR THE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF COUNCIL MEMBERS, STAFF, AND THE PUBLIC PRESENTED BY COVID-19, AND TO FOLLOW THE GOVERNOR'S PROCLAMATION AND THE MAYOR'S EXECUTIVE ORDER DIRECTING SOCIAL DISTANCING AND PLACING RESTRICTIONS ON GATHERINGS. IN PERSON ATTENDANCE BY THE GENERAL PUBLIC AT ANY CITY OF DAVENPORT PUBLIC MEETING WITHIN ITS FACILITIES SHALL BE LIMITED TO 10 PERSONS.

I. Call to Order

Vice Chairperson McGivern called the meeting to order with the following Commissioners present by phone or virtual meeting: Franken, Lesthaeghe, McGivern, Miranda, Powers, Sage, and Wilga.

Staff present: Laura Berkley, Matt Werderitch

II. Secretary's Report

a. Consideration of the February 9, 2021 Meeting Minutes.

Motion by Franken, second by Lesthaeghe to approve the February 9, 2021 meeting minutes. Minutes were unanimously approved by voice vote (7-0).

III. Communications

The Historic Preservation Commission welcomed its seventh Commissioner Karen Miranda, whom filled the last remaining vacant seat on the Commission.

Werderitch announced that the WOC Broadcast Center at 805 Brady Street has been individually listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Staff stated the Certified Local Government Annual Report has been submitted to the State Historic Preservation Office for review. Staff will notify the Commission when approved.

IV. Old Business

V. New Business

- a. Case COA21-02 being the request for new construction at City Hall located at 226 West 4th Street. Local Historic Landmark. Saloni Sheth, Streamline Architects on behalf of the City of Davenport, petitioner. [Ward 3]

Werderitch provided an overview of the proposed City Hall monument sign. Saloni Sheth, Streamline Architects, presented the conceptual design to the Commission and answered questions. Commissioner comments included the size of the stone veneer, location of the sign, size, illumination, and direction. Franken expressed a desire to have the date City Hall was constructed engraved onto the base of the monument sign.

Staff recommendation is made to approve the Certificate of Appropriateness for New Construction at 226 West 4th Street per Chapter 14.01.060 of the Zoning Ordinance.

The project was reviewed for conformance with the Standards for Review, Chapter 14.01.060.C and D. The project meets the following standards:

1. Every reasonable effort shall be made to make the minimal number of changes necessary to maintain a designated property in a good state of repair, thereby minimizing the impact of the proposed alteration.
2. Site improvements should have as minimal of an impact as possible to the designated property's original layout and its visual character.
3. The height of the proposed monument sign is compatible with the designated property and the surrounding structures.

Motion by Wilga, second by Miranda to approve staff recommendation for approval of Case COA21-02. Motion to approve staff recommendation passed by a roll call vote 6 to 1. Commissioner Franken voted against.

VI. Other Business

- a. Election of Officers.

Motion by Franken, second by Powers to nominate Bob McGivern as Chairperson. Motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote (7-0).

Motion by McGivern, second by Powers to nominate Diane Franken as Vice-Chairperson. Motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote (7-0).

VII. Open Forum for Comment

City engineering staff is reviewing feedback provided by the Commission at February's work session regarding reconstruction of the retaining wall at 510 West 6th Street. The Public Works Department is exploring the option of entering into a contract with IMEG to provide a report and preliminary plans comparing the possibility of preserving the existing limestone verses new construction. The condition of the limestone will also be studied. Staff reached out to the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) for feedback. SHPO expressed a preference in having the existing limestone preserved. This item will come back to the Commission at a later date for review and approval.

The Historic Preservation Commission expressed interest in having Alderperson Meginnis serve as a liaison. The liaison role will focus on sharing historic preservation information and resources with city staff and the commission. The role is not intended to provide technical comments on individual projects. As an alderperson, she will continue to advocate for historic preservation at the City Council level.

VIII. Adjourn

Motion by Miranda, second by Sage to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed by a voice vote (7-0). The meeting adjourned at 5:30 pm.

IX. Next Commission Meeting: April 13, 2021