

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

CITY OF DAVENPORT, IOWA

TUESDAY, JUNE 11, 2024; 5:00 PM

CITY HALL | 226 WEST 4TH STREET | COUNCIL CHAMBERS

I. Call to Order

Chairperson Hustedde called the meeting to order.

Present: McGivern, Miranda, Hustedde, Powers, Franken, Kretz

Absent: Bierman

Staff Present: Berkley, Werderitch

II. Secretary's Report

A. Consideration of the April 9, 2024 meeting minutes.

Motion by Powers, second by Franken, to approve the April 9, 2024 meeting minutes.
Minutes were unanimously approved by voice vote (6-0).

III. Communications

Werderitch provided an update on the upcoming Party in the Park dates as well as the Heart of Downtown Davenport Walking Tours.

IV. Old Business

V. New Business

A. Case COA24-06: Request to reconstruct the front yard retaining wall at 714 West 6th Street. The retaining wall is located within the Hamburg Local Landmark Historic District. Jeremy Keninger, petitioner. [Ward 3]

Werderitch presented an overview of the request to reconstruct the retaining wall along the sidewalk using Kodah Modular Block. This wall is located entirely on private property. The wall supports the historic Emanuel Rothschild House, which is sited on a sloped property. The overall height of the reconstructed wall will be increased to approximately four feet in height to adequately retain the soil behind. The property owner selected Kodah Modular Block for the reconstruction. The natural appearance of Kodah Blocks is derived from its rough, quarried stone texture that replicates historic limestone. In addition, the proposed wall design will reestablish the existing staircase, providing access from the sidewalk up to the home.

Staff recommended approval of the Certificate of Appropriateness to reconstruct the front yard retaining wall at 714 West 6th Street as presented.

The project was reviewed for conformance with the Standards for Review, Chapter 14.01.060C of the Davenport Municipal Code. The project meets the following standards:

1. Deteriorated architectural features should, where possible, be repaired rather than replaced. Where the severity of deterioration requires replacement, the new feature shall match the old in design, color, texture and other visual qualities and, where possible, materials. Replacement of missing features shall be substantiated by documentary, physical or pictorial evidence.

Jeremy Keninger, property owner, was in attendance to answer questions.

Motion by McGivern, second by Kretz, to approve Case COA24-06 as submitted. Motion to approve passed by a roll call vote (6-0).

- B. Case COA24-07: Request for the installation of a new roof and siding at 708 West 6th Street. The Louis and Mary Rehling House is located in the Hamburg Local Landmark Historic District. Matthew Rhomberg, petitioner. [Ward 3]

Werderitch provided an overview of the Certificate of Appropriateness. The owner is requesting permission to cover the deteriorated wood siding with LP Smart Siding. The replacement siding is an engineered wood product. LP Smart Siding is a high quality material that can replicate a wood finish, while providing better durability and less maintenance. The applicant intends to replicate the board widths and colors with the new material. Staff advise the dimensions of the frieze board and trim be reproduced with the LP Smart Siding material. In addition, there are several windows on the rear elevation that are lacking trim. These missing elements should be addressed through this project. The applicant also submitted plans to reroof the home with a replacement asphalt shingle roof to match the existing material.

Staff recommended approval of the Certificate of Appropriateness for exterior alteration at 708 West 6th Street in accordance with the submitted material and subject to the following conditions:

1. The profile of the horizontal LP Smart Siding shall match the profile of the existing wood siding.
2. The dimensions of the frieze board and trim shall be reproduced with the LP Smart Siding material.

The project was reviewed for conformance with the Standards for Review, Chapter 14.01.060 C of the Davenport Municipal Code. 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. Deteriorated architectural features should, where possible, be repaired rather than replaced. Where the severity of deterioration requires replacement, the new feature shall match the old in design, color, texture and other visual

qualities and, where possible, materials. Replacement of missing features shall be substantiated by documentary, physical or pictorial evidence.

Matthew Rhomberg, property owner, was in attendance to answer questions. He agreed to the staff recommended conditions.

Motion by Powers, second by Kretz, to approve staff recommendation and conditions in Case COA24-07. Motion to approve passed by a roll call vote (6-0).

VI. Other Business

A. QC PastPort Presentation

Linda Anderson and Natalie Linville-Mass of QC PastPort gave a presentation to the Commission on the regional wayfinding project. The intention is to install signage at the Annie Wittenmyer Complex and the LeClaire House to promote the history of these landmarks. The Commission discussed the information presented on each sign, durability of the sign material, and historical context. Commissioner McGivern recommended the organization contact local neighbors to obtain feedback on the placement of the signs prior to installation.

B. Congressional Historic Preservation Caucus

The Chairperson proposed the Commission send a letter to US Representative Mariannette Miller-Meeks to encourage her to consider joining the Congressional Historic Preservation Caucus. The Historic Preservation Caucus, formed in 2003, brings together members of Congress who understand the value of America's historic places as definers of our national character. Its members support and encourage preservation and thoughtful economic development in their states, districts, and territories as a matter of national policy. Despite Iowa having one of the largest Certified Local Government Programs in the country, Iowa is currently one of eleven states not represented in this caucus.

Motion by Hustedde, second by Franken, to send a letter to Representative Miller-Meeks encouraging her to consider joining the Congressional Historic Preservation Caucus. Motion passed by a roll call vote (6-0).

C. Preserve Iowa Summit

Chairperson Hustedde shared his experience at the Preserve Iowa Summit in Mount Pleasant. Next year's conference will be held in Muscatine, Iowa.

VII. Open Forum for Comment

A member of the public, Judith Lee, spoke about items discovered at River Heritage Park. She presented materials to the Commission found at the site, which were unearthed during recent excavation work.

VIII. Adjourn

Motion by McGivern, second by Miranda, to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed by a voice vote (6-0). The meeting adjourned at 6:16 pm.

IX. Next Commission Meeting: July 9, 2024