**Clermont Historic Preservation Commission (HPC)**

Minutes — September 20, 2023

The Clermont Historic Preservation Commission met at 6pm in the Larrabee Building on Wednesday, September 20, 2023. Chairperson Hanna Frederick was joined by Sharon Harris, Leslie White, John Bolsinger, and City Council representative Troy Schott. Vicki Rowland was unable to attend.

The Agenda was approved (Sharon/Leslie).

The February 16, 2023 minutes were approved (Sharon/Troy).

The group reviewed the 2023 Workplan. The consensus was that while the gravestone cleaning project could still be held this year, it would be a good event to hold sometime in 2024 as part of the City’s overall 175th celebration.

No HPC members were able to attend the Preserve Iowa Summit this year. Under Professional Development, three members—Hannah, Vicki, and Sharon—are planning to attend a workshop on the nomination process for the National Register of Historic Places. The training will be facilitated by the Winneshiek County HPC and SHPO in Decorah on October 20, 2023.

Hannah will coordinate with Sharon and Vicki on finalizing the Decorah training registration and payment of fees. The early registration fee of $30 per attendee is due by October 6, 2023. Leslie moved, John seconded the use of HPC funds for the workshop fee; motion carried.

The HPC continues to work with the Clermont Historical Society on updating the Clermont history book.

Sharon will continue to pursue a community program for identifying historic properties.

Troy shared some information on planning for Clermont’s 175th celebration scheduled for July 5, 6, and 7, 2024. The City allocated $10,000 for the event and the Committee plans to apply for a Fayette County Community Foundation grant. Sub-committees plan to meet in October. The Masonic Lodge will offer lunch on Saturday, July 6; EMS may host breakfast on Sunday, July 7 in conjunction with a community ecumenical service; and there is hope for an organization to hold a supper event on Friday, July 5. Church groups may focus more on dessert stands and food trucks will likely round out the culinary offerings.

John shared examples of mayoral proclamations that other communities issued for their own 175th anniversaries—to be potentially tailored to fit Clermont’s unique history. If a proclamation was made, it could also address the 150th anniversary of the Montauk Historic Site; or it may be best to address each milestone separately (perhaps Governor Reynolds would issue a Montauk-specific proclamation?).

The meeting adjourned at 6:35pm. The HPC will meet on Wednesday, October 25, 2023 at 6pm in the Larrabee Building.

Respectfully submitted,

John Bolsinger