

City of Sidney Historic Preservation Board
Meeting Minutes
June 9, 2015

The meeting of the City of Sidney Historic Preservation Board was called to order by Kay Hicks, Chairperson of the Board at 12:03 p.m. Announcement of the Open Public Meetings Act was acknowledged.

Roll Call: Kay Hicks, Bruce Leypoldt, Kathy Wilson, Scott Williams, Jake Vickery and Rich Phillips. Members absent included Greg Huck. Additional attendees included: City Manager Gary Person, Chief Building Official Brad Rowan and local business owners Mary Barnett and Victor Barnett.

Approval of Meeting Minutes:

Leypoldt moved and Williams seconded to approve the May 12, 2015 minutes as written. All members present voted “yes.”

Kay Hicks presented a Certificate of Approval and Grant Program Extension Request as a private citizen and removed herself as a board member in a voting capacity. Vice-Chairman Greg Huck was not present, so City Manager Person stepped in the facilitator role during the discussion.

The project proposed replacing storm windows for the upper story of the building at 845 10th Avenue. The building owners have decided to look into the restoration of the existing windows at a later date, but in the meantime want to install storm windows. In order to get accurate sizing, each window has to be measured from the outside individually with a construction lift and due to winter months and other recent weather delays for projects being worked on by Sidney Glass, the timing of the project took longer than originally planned.

Kay and Dennis Hicks asked for a three month extension in which Sidney Glass indicted they could finish the project. It was originally approved in November, 2014. Williams moved and Phillips seconded Hicks approval of the extension request. All members present voted “yes” with the exception of Hicks, who abstained.

There were no other COA requests.

Person gave a report from Megan McGown on the status of the Certified Local Government Grant, which was awarded to the City of Sidney in the amount of \$25,000.00 to do an Intensive Level Survey in the community. The next step will be to develop a “Request for Proposal” with the criteria and qualifications needed to conduct the survey. McGown continues to work on the RFP during her transition time in leaving as the Economic Development Director for the City. The HPB is expected to consider approving the RFP at its July board meeting.

In comments by Board members, Phillips explained an interview viewing he recently watched about a preservation board with similar responsibilities approaching projects through “creative preservation” where the historic integrity is preserved, but certain procedures are allowed in situations that are necessary for improvements to be made. He felt the flexibility was important to help keep historic business districts viable and store fronts filled. Other board members joined in that discussion, as well and if that approach would be allowed in the future, to make sure it becomes part of the overall policy to treat all projects equally. The web site was: www.artistshomes.org/article/creative-preservation.

Wilson introduced Mary Barnett and Victor Barnett, new owners of the 1044 Illinois building, which now houses their business “More Than Quilts.” The Barnett’s were interested in learning about the cost share programs through the HPB and discussion ensued. They were given an application and the design guidelines to follow and plan to submit an application at an upcoming board meeting. Vickery mentioned the recent discussion by the board to assign a board member for oversight on a project to help business owners better understand the guidelines and follow the accepted practices of preservation. Vickery volunteered to help the Barnett’s.

Person informed the board about Tina Hochwender, who has been hired as the new Economic Development Director and said he would provide her resume background in an email to the board members. He explained her background and how many of her diversified experiences would be helpful in working with preservation issues and downtown revitalization efforts. Hochwender begins her duties in June 15 and McGown will help with some of the initial training and orientation to the job next week when she begins.

There being no further business, meeting was adjourned at 12:46 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Gary Person