

CITY OF OWEN
Historic Preservation Committee
Minutes
Wednesday, July 23, 2021 AT 6:30 pm.
City Hall, 833 W. 3rd St.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Mauel at 6:30 pm.

Present were: John Mauel, Travis Rogers, Nicole Rogers and Tim Swiggum.

Absent were Jackie Reinke and Jerry Fults.

Others: Jason Tisch and Janet Seymour, State Historical Society, via Zoom, and Cindy Cardinal.

Minutes from 6/23/21:

A T. Rogers/N. Rogers motion/second to approve minutes from June 23,21 passed unanimously.

Update on City Owned Historical Buildings:

The City Council has approved that the HPC take over management and responsibility for the Old City Hall and the Historic FNE Depot.

Discussion with State Historical Society Representatives:

In attendance via Zoom was Janet Seymour and Jason Tisch representing the State Historical Society. Jason spoke to the aspects of the Historical Preservation Committee and the city ordinance. The ordinance needs updating to bring into a model that will better position the committee for grants and other areas of responsibility. It is common that the municipality retain ownership and the Historical Society would manage the property. We should develop a written agreement with the city for mowing, upkeep and maintenance issues. Insurance (property and liability) are definitely important to know who covers what and who is responsible for the premiums. Jason will work with us on updating our ordinance and any other issues relating to the Committee work done as representatives of the city. Janet spoke to the non-profit side of the equation and the forming of a Historical Society. It is important to become an affiliate of the State Historical Society as it opens up many resources to us including the Resource History Lister group where we could ask questions of other affiliates and get answers based on their past best practices. Discussion was held regarding the inclusion of the whole area or to stay focused on Owen. Most Societies cover an area or region and being more inclusive is encouraged. It was suggested that we allow the bylaws to be somewhat vague and generic as it leaves more flexibility moving forward. For example: If all the committees are in the bylaws then we are bound to keep them going even if they are inactive or unnecessary. The board can create and change committees at any time without delay if they are not in the bylaws. Charter members and other distinctions should be decided by the board and incentives/benefits can be given to those members. Lifetime memberships should be avoided as it is difficult to keep them giving after a certain point and may cause budgeting issues down the road. It was recommended that we become affiliated with the Federal and State Historical Societies as it brings the full organizational resources behind us. Dave Jankoski from Stanley was mentioned as a great local resource. They will send us some email information and links to move forward. Committee thanked them and they exited the meeting.

Goals and Objectives:

Discussion on holding a joint meeting of the public to discuss the formation of a Historical Society. It is important to gain as much buy in as possible. Sending a letter to local organizations and people as well as newspaper releases informing the public and potential members. It was suggested that we use our next meeting to hold the public meeting. A Swiggum/N. Rogers motion/second to approve the public meeting, arrange through email, create a mailing list and invite as many people as possible with an RSVP attached passed unanimously.

Formation of Historical Society:

It was agreed that we did not need to discuss at this time.

Promotion and Fundraising Plans:

It is too early to discuss fundraising plans until we have an organization formed.

Next HPC meeting: August 25, at 6:30 pm, at a to be determined location.

Meeting adjourned by Mauel at 8:08 pm.