

Washington Historic Preservation Commission Meeting
Council Chambers of City Hall
405 Jefferson Street
Washington, Missouri 63090

Monday, August 17, 2020 at 6:00 PM

Minutes

Call to Order – Roll Call

Present

Carolyn Witt, Chairman
Steve Strubberg, Vice-Chairman
Bryan Bogue
Rick Hopp
Danielle Grotewiel
Jamie Holtmeier
Joe Holtmeier, City Council Liaison
Tyler King
Sal Maniaci, City Planner/Economic Developer

Absent

Andrew Clary
Greg Skornia, City Council Liaison
Tom Neldon, Building Official

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of minutes from Monday, May 18, 2020. Motion made by Jamie Holtmeier. Seconded by Rick Hopp. Passed without dissent.

New Business

1. Update on City Cemetery sign funding/progress

Carolyn Witt:

They've formed a committee and we've met twice.

Sal Maniaci:

For the city cemetery by Wildey Way cemetery, that is a city owned cemetery that isn't marked or identified in any way. The ones that are known, there are some historic burials there. There are a number of black families that have been buried there. At the time, no churches or denominations would allow them to be in their cemeteries. During black history month, it was brought up to be able to do some type of recognition or sign/plaque to let people know it exists and give some history there. We've met twice, I wasn't able to go to the first one. We met last week and we got a budget for the sign. \$2500 was pledged from this budget. The remainder will be from service organizations – that is the goal. In order to get this done in this budget year, which ends at the end of September – we're just going to go ahead and order the sign and the city will pay for it. The city will then be reimbursed from the service organizations. Once we buy the informational plaque, it will probably be right at half. Out of this committee and the city's budget, we'll

be paying for half – then we'll get the other half. So we'll be paying about \$5,000 total. Then we'll let the Master Gardeners Club do a bed around the sign.

Carolyn Witt:

Similar to what you see when you come into town around the City of Washington sign. It's absolutely beautiful. They are very active. If they were to take an interest in that, it would really call attention to it. We've picked a really good spot. As you go down Wildey Way, it's to the left – kind of in the middle of what the city cemetery covers. They were looking at a granite slab – kind of like a tomb stone, but not exactly. It would have a darker granite base and a gray stone. It would be a little shorter than the width of the table standing up. It would say – Washington City Cemetery Established 1889. We talked about some kind of information on the back of the stone. Then the general discussion went to more towards a plaque similar to what's down by the caboose with the civil war information sign. They have a map of the cemetery and where the graves are. The graves in the city cemetery were placed chronologically so the oldest ones are near the road. As time goes on, they work their way further east. We haven't had a new one since 2014. They were looking at the price of the plaque. Maybe there could be information and then the map. That has not been definitely decided. We're having a meeting in two weeks. At that time, everything will be finalized so we can put an order in for the stone so we can get it built before the end of the fiscal year which is the 30th of September. We're trying to expedite this to move it right along. It was really wonderful that this committee could have some money to apply to that because it's a very worthwhile project. That really got things going. Seed money is always what you need.

Sal Maniaci:

Darren mentioned that next year's money we'll put in for to pave the gravel road. It's an old gravel road that hasn't been maintained that goes around the city cemetery. It's weeded up so we'll actually pave it and have the sign and the landscaping so it will look nice and people will know it's there – give it a little history. We're going to use Marc Houseman to right it up, since he's got the most information on it. Like Carolyn said, we have a plat of the graves. They're numbered. The ones that we do know, obviously there is a lot that we don't. We'll be able to put that on the plaque. Mary said they do not know all of them. The ones closest to the road aren't even numbered. They said they already went out there with tools and verified there are bodies 8 inches from the easement. The paperwork doesn't have anything matching to tell you who it is.

Carolyn Witt:

Paul Annable is on the committee. He is in the cemetery society. He has the skills to know where they are. That was another thing, to make sure there was nothing where we wanted to put the sign. Not that it's deep, but you don't want to mess up anything. There was another idea mentioned that there might be Eagle Scout projects that would help identify the graves and maybe come up with some kind of marking. We were shooting all kinds of ideas. This is an untapped potential historic site. I think recognizing that is way overdue. I'm really glad we've gotten the motivation to do something and it's moving along. Marc has a million stories

so committee meetings are never dull! Our meeting is on the 27th of August and it's at 11am here in the council chamber. If anybody is interested in coming, feel free to come.

2. Design Reviews since last meeting approved by email:
 - a. 4 E. Main St. (Sirens Hotel) – façade
 - b. 310 Elm St. (Plush/The Nest) – fence
 - c. 310 Elm St. (The Nest) – outdoor kitchen
 - d. 5 W. Main St. (Underdown Photography) – sign
 - e. 16 E. Front St. (Bridgeview Brewing) – sign

Carolyn Witt:

These are already approved, they just need to be put in the minutes. We have a motion to put on the record by Bryan Bogue. Second by Steve Strubberg. All those signify by saying aye. Opposed? Motion carried.

Old Business

1. Potential Grants

Sal Maniaci:

I know you've been getting the emails that Jamie's been forwarding. Danielle had reached out to us via email as well with an idea of maybe an educational outreach program that can be done specifically online to get some information out. It was not an item that was listed as an example so she did reach out to the state today. They said it sounds interesting and they'll respond with that.

Danielle Grotewiel:

Allison is talking to her federal counterpart because they're having to reevaluate how they're going to go about doing things. We've talked several times about having a Facebook page or something that we can get information out about what commission is doing and why it's important. None of us have the time to run said Facebook page, so if we could get some money from the SHPO, then we could get someone to run that. That is what I proposed. I emailed that to Allison and she was getting with her federal counterpart this afternoon or tomorrow morning.

Sal Maniaci:

Next year we will apply for the shoe factory district to finish that off.

2. Education/Conferences

Carolyn Witt:

Most everything has been canceled. Does anyone know of anything that's not that's still in the works?

Tyler King:

We have one, Missouri Main Street has a Downtown Revitalization – one in Warrensburg in November. As of right now, that is the only one that I know of from a Main Street perspective that is not canceled. Everything else has been though.

Carolyn Witt:

That was initially going to be November 6th in Lees Summit. Those can be really good, or they cannot be. It's important if you get information on that, to evaluate whether it sounds like something that will be worthwhile.

Danielle Grotewiel:

It's always worthwhile from a Main Street perspective, but not always as all-encompassing.

Carolyn Witt:

The last couple have not been very worthwhile even from a Main Street perspective. I've been there and it's just been disappointing so I'm hoping – but I'd have to be more assured it was going to be worth my time. There were three of us there and it was very disappointing.

Sal Maniaci:

They've been sending out some online educational ones, too. I'm sure as things continue to be canceled that they'll start doing more webinars. This group has always requested that anyway.

Carolyn Witt:

People aren't always able to attend so it's good when you can do it online. That way, you're not investing a whole lot of your time and effort into it.

Danielle Grotewiel:

Also, I think you get a higher participation when it's online.

3. Curb Appeal Award

Nothing new.

4. Creating New History Award

Nothing new.

5. Budget Report

Sal Maniaci:

We haven't spent any money since the last one. We'll be spending \$2,500 out of our plaque budget for the sign and plaque for the cemetery.

Carolyn Witt:

Next year, is the budget alive and well?

Sal Maniaci:

For Historic Preservation, I put in the same amount – but I haven't heard yet.

6. Information Plaques for Historic Buildings

Carolyn Witt:

We are doing the cemetery sign.

7. Calvin Theatre

Nothing new.

Other Business

Steve Strubberg made a motion to adjourn and Tyler King, seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved. The meeting of the Washington Historic Preservation Commission ended at 6:20 PM.

The next scheduled meeting of the Washington Historic Preservation Commission will be held Monday, November 16, 2020 at 6:00 PM in the Council Chambers of City Hall.