

**Independence Historical Preservation Resource Commission:
Minutes of the May 31st, 2019 meeting.**

The meeting was called to order in the Veterans Room of Memorial Hall at 12:00 pm. Members present included: Ken Brown, Tim Haynes, Tim Raglin and Tom Hoffert. Absent were members Sean Clapp, Tim Emert and Mark Easter.

The minutes from the last meeting (April 22, 2019) were reviewed by the Commission. Tim Raglin then motioned for approval and Ken Brown seconded. The motion was carried unanimously.

The next order of business dealt with the applications for buildings to be placed on the Local Register. Ken Brown informed the Commission that Steve Cook and Susan Stephenson, current owners of the Burns Uhrich home would like to be included for nomination. And that a public hearing into the matter would have to occur prior to the homes inclusion. A public hearing for the Uhrich home and the seven previously nominated structures located at Riverside Park (Monkey Island, Tennis Clubhouse, Park Office, Cemetery Wall, Sexton House, Band Shell and the Swan Pool) would be held in conjunction with the next Commission meeting held on June 24, 2019.

The next order of business was determining the exact wording for and the type of plaque which will be affixed to the Riverside Park nominated structures. Ken Brown and Tim Raglin had previously surveyed each structure in order to determine the placement of the plaques. Though determinations were made Ken Brown felt that FORPAZ (Friends of Riverside Park and Zoo) should be involved in the location process and that he would approach them for concurrence.

As for the wording on the plaques the Commission agreed that for the Park Office and Sexton House the Civil Works Administration (CWA) would be listed as the contractors. For Monkey Island The Independence Employment Committee; the Swan Pool and Cemetery wall the Works Progress Administration; The Tennis Clubhouse the Works Projects Administration (the WPA originally stood for Works *Progress* Administration, but it was officially changed to Works *Projects* Administration in 1939); and the Band Shell, which due to the numerous amount of contractors who worked on the construction The City of Independence.

As for the type of plaque, only the cemetery wall, due to its length posed a problem. It was decided that a pedestal mounted plaque located at the point of highest foot traffic (5th Street) would be the best alternative as opposed to numerous plaques situated along the wall..

The deteriorating condition of the cemetery wall and how to alleviate it, first discussed in the March 25, 2019 Commission meeting was again raised. Tim Haynes informed the Commission that numerous businesses in and around the City of Independence offer existing grants for employees who commit to 40 hours of volunteer work and perhaps a workforce could be drawn from this. It was decided to table this item for discussion until the next Commission meeting.

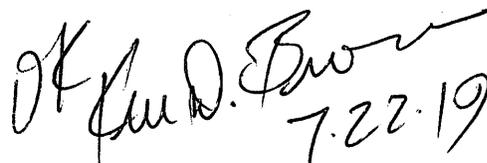
The sixth order of business dealt with the proposed (currently tabled) demolition of two City owned properties located at 106 and 108 East Chestnut. The City was proposing to demolish both non-compliant ADA (American Disability Act) structures for the purpose of turning the land into bus access for events at the Memorial Hall. The structures (built between 1923 and 1931) lay just outside the northern boundary of the Downtown Historic District and thus are not protected. In addition neither structure appears to qualify for inclusion under Criteria A, B, C or D. With this noted the Commission felt that it would be detrimental to the visual aspect of the northern edge of the designated District to raze these structures; coupled with the fact that the frequency of buses using the location would be minimal at best. The Commission agreed that the City should explore alternate mitigative measures and hopefully avoid the "bulldozer mentality" that is becoming more prevalent in both small towns and larger cities across America.

The last order of business dealt with the plaques for the buildings in the Downtown Historic District. Ken Brown informed the Commission that there are approximately 40 plaques left to manufacture with the proposed installation date (late summer) looming closer. Tim Haynes said that he would approach businesses that offer grant monies for volunteer work to see if he can find people willing to help with the remaining plaque manufacturing.

Tim Raglin moved to adjourn, seconded by Tom Hoffert. The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 pm.

Minutes compiled by Tom Hoffert

Secretary, Independence Historical Preservation Resource Commission.


7.22.19