



Collection of the Sioux City Museum.

The above picture is looking south on Pierce Street in 1941. Street cars were once the main mode of transportation in Sioux City.

Sioux City Historic Preservation Commission FY 2017 Annual Report



Introduction

As stated in Section 2.66.070 of the Municipal Code, one of the responsibilities of the Historic Preservation Commission is to prepare and deliver to the City Council an annual report covering program activities and financial status. Thus, as members of City Council you are receiving this report.

The Historic Preservation Commission's primary purpose is outlined in the mission statement - "By utilizing the expertise of the Commission members, researching current information and partnering with other groups and local, state, and national organizations, the Sioux City Historic Preservation Commission will:

- 1) Advise the City Council and other groups on preservation issues;
- 2) Assist businesses, groups or individuals in preservation efforts;
- 3) Educate the residents of Sioux City about methods and merits of preservation;
- 4) Safeguard the City's historic and cultural heritage by preserving sites of significance;
- 5) Partner with other Siouxsland groups to recognize, protect, and enhance potential historic attractions to tourism and business."

The Historic Preservation Commission is a nine-member commission, and is currently comprised of the following members:

12 Total Meetings in FY 2017
Bob Coacher, Commission Chairperson
Jim Jung, Vice Chairperson
Toi Sullivan
Sara DeAnda
Mark Custer
Adam Fullerton
Bill Burrows
Amy Macfarlane
Vacant

2017 Work Plan

The Historic Preservation Commission achieved this mission through the following 2017 Work Plan:

Continue to pursue a vigorous educational campaign on preservation issues in order to heighten the awareness of Sioux City residents.

- A. Present 13th Annual Preservation Week and Treasure of Sioux City Award: Amy, Bob / Staff (May).
- B. Pursue programs that enable the Commission to gain exposure for local history and landmarks: HPC (Continuous)
 - 1) Siouxland Magazine: Jim
 - 2) Local Workshops
 - 3) Sioux City Journal Articles
 - 4) HPC Publications for Sale
- C. Involve college students in projects whenever possible: Adam / Staff (Continuous)
- D. Search, evaluate, and pursue grant potentials and maintain a ready list of various projects: HPC (Continuous)
- E. Promote a marketing campaign that advertises and promotes Sioux City's historic features and the Historic Preservation Commission:
 - a. Field Trip app for historic properties: Adam
 - b. Facebook page: Sara
 - c. Ads at Airport and City Hall: Adam
 - d. Website development: Adam
- F. Determine Local Landmarks as needed: HPC (Continuous).

Maintain a proactive approach to local preservation issues.

- A. Monitor Placard list and Placard Hearings for properties of significance: Bob (Monthly Reports and Quarterly Placard Hearings).
- B. Monitor activities with significant properties: (Continuous).
- C. HPC Chair to continue to review the Planning and Zoning Commission and City Council agendas for pertinent preservation issues: Bob (Continuous).
- D. Advocate awareness by posting endangered properties on the website: Adam (Continuous).
- E. Maintain memberships on local boards and committees to represent HPC concerns: HPC (Continuous).
- F. Monitor the Building and Housing Code Board Agenda: Toi (Monthly).
- G. Pursue fundraising opportunities to support HPC activities such as speakers, Historic Preservation Week, and Commission member training: Sara / HPC (Continuous).
- H. Monitor physical changes to historically significant properties in National and Local Historic Districts. Changes may include window replacements, façade updates, brick repair, and any related items that could potentially change the historic character of the building. This includes changes that were not presented to the Commission for preapproval: HPC (Continuous).
- I. Evaluate historically significant areas to potentially designate as National or Local Historic Districts: HPC (Continuous).

Continue context studies.

- A. Initiate and coordinate reconnaissance surveys for areas of concern or areas of significance: HPC (Continuous).
- B. Participate in the development of a citywide comprehensive and preservation plan: HPC (Comp Plan programmed for update in FY17).
- C. Maintain a historic property inventory for Sioux City: Staff (Continuous).

Provide education of Commission members.

- A. Encourage Commissioners to obtain yearly training required for CLG: HPC (Continuous)
- B. Conduct yearly review of work plan, orientation manual, homeowner's manual, and mission statement: HPC (December).
- C. Review the website regularly for changes or updates: HPC (Semiannual).

2017 Activities

In FY2017, the Historic Preservation Commission was engaged in numerous preservation activities. The Commission provides advice and research to citizen requests on a regular basis, as well as monitoring City boards and agendas for items relating to preservation. Other projects and activities are highlighted below.

Red Tagged Properties

The Commission continues to actively review the City's red tagged property list for historic properties not already brought up in meetings. The Commission members review properties prior to demolition based on local knowledge and an inventory of over 4,000 surveyed properties to identify potentially historical and architecturally significant features worth salvaging.

Social Media

The Commission continues to increase its usage of social media to communicate activities with the public. A Facebook page details preservation events happening in Sioux City, endangered properties, and monthly meeting dates.

Website Development

A website is a crucial aspect to promote historic preservation in Sioux City. The website continues to provide a means for the Commission to easily communicate meeting times, special events, articles, and historic properties. The Iowa Culture app, a new app feature developed by the Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs, was added to the website this year. It is in interactive way to discover arts, history and culture destinations across Iowa. The current website is located at: <http://www.siouxcityhp.org/>.

Chamber of Commerce Membership

To better promote the Historic Preservation Commission's mission and yearly activities, the Commission voted to become a member of the Siouxland Chamber of Commerce. A benefit includes deep advertising discounts in local media sources, which the Commission plans to utilize to promote Historic Preservation Week and other special events.

Inaugural Omaha Exchange Bus Trip

As an extension of the 2017 Historic Preservation Week, the Commission in partnership with SiouxLandmark and Restoration Exchange Omaha coordinated a reciprocal bus trip packed with tours of notable historic structures in each city. On Saturday April 29th 36 members of the Historic Preservation Commission and the public traveled by bus to Omaha where members of Restoration Exchange Omaha gave a day-long tour including the Joslyn Castle, St. Cecelia's Cathedral, and the Storz Mansion. On Saturday May 13th, a large group from Omaha traveled by bus to Sioux City where members of the Historic Preservation Commission with assistance from Tom Munson, Archives Manager at the Sioux City Museum, gave expansive tours of the Orpheum Theater, Woodbury County Courthouse, and the State Steel building. The inaugural reciprocal tour was incredibly successful and the effort will be repeated with other nearby cities in the future.

Historic Preservation Week

The Sioux City Historic Preservation Commission, in partnership with various Sioux City organizations, spearheaded the 13th annual Historic Preservation Week event in Sioux City last May. Events included the 9th Annual Barstool Open, a tour of the Virginia Square Apartments at 100 Virginia Street presented by Ho-Chunk, Inc. and a walking tour of the Virginia and Court Street areas. Treasure of Sioux City awards were presented to the Peirce Mansion Committee for their hard work to maintain the mansion to be historically accurate and in pristine condition, and to Grace Linden, the former Sioux City Museum Curator responsible for creating the museum's archive system. Sioux City continues to host the only week-long preservation event in Iowa and the Commission looks forward to highlighting Sioux City's historic resources in the coming years.

Other Involvement

The Historic Preservation Commission stayed involved in numerous other activities in FY2017.

- Commission members have completed numerous surveys of properties, and will continue this effort going forward. Surveys on Summit Street and Jackson Street are ongoing. Surveys on the Heights neighborhood are complete and grant funds are being pursued to nominate the neighborhood as a local landmark.
- The Commission monitors the Planning and Zoning Commission and City Council agenda items for items that may potentially affect historically significant buildings or features. For example, the Commission continues to monitor potential new commercial storage units on Lewis Boulevard near Floyd Monument to ensure that the development does not compromise the integrity of the landmark.
- The Commission reviewed and approved the Milwaukee Railroad Shops Historic District nomination application to the National Register of Historic Places.
- Expanded efforts, in partnership with the City Council, to educate all Iowa Congressmen on the benefits received from Federal Historic Tax Credits and communicate the importance of retaining and strengthening the beneficial program as part of the 2017 tax reform plan.
- The Commission participated in a meeting coordinated by the State Archeologist's office and with several regional tribes and family descendants of War Eagle to begin the process of re-interring the remains of War Eagle family members that were disturbed during a significant landslide at the War Eagle Monument in 1988.
- IEDA Downtown Conference
- Sign and Mural reviews in historic districts.

Financial Update

The Historic Preservation Commission has continued to fundraise and currently has a balance of \$8,471.81. These revenues come from book sales, Historic Preservation Week activities, and other private contributions. Revenues are used to fund Historic Preservation Week, website upkeep, training for Commission members, and other miscellaneous items as needed.

Looking Forward

A busy year is in store for the Historic Preservation Commission in FY 2018. Several projects have already begun. Planning for the 14th Annual Historic Preservation Week has begun with a full week planned again. The 2018 Historic Preservation Week coincides with the 100th Anniversary celebration of the Woodbury County Courthouse. The Commission will continue to address preservation issues as they arise in 2018. In addition, Sioux City's Comprehensive Plan update is currently underway and historic preservation is included as a topic of significance in the update.

In FY16, the Commission began reviewing alterations and modifications to structures in the Historic Area districts, and will continue this valuable work as projects in the districts arise. The Commission reviews applications in accordance with Section 25.06.090.16 of the Municipal Code and makes recommendations on these Certificate of Appropriateness applications to the City Council. No applications for Certificates of Appropriateness were requested in 2017.

Future Public Meeting Schedule

The Sioux City Historic Preservation Commission meets on the first Tuesday of the month. Meetings are open to the public and the Commission welcomes any input on preservation activities in Sioux City. The Historic Preservation Commission will meet at 3:30 p.m. in the Pre-Council Chambers, City Hall, 405 6th Street, Fifth Floor, on the following tentative dates in 2018:

January 2
February 6
March 6
April 3
May 1
June 5
July 3
August 7
September 4
October 2
November 6
December 4