




Collection of the Sioux City Museum.

The above picture captures the Woodbury County Courthouse in 1918. The Courthouse celebrated its 100th year with several events in 2018.

Sioux City Historic Preservation Commission FY 2018 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 Siouxland 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:

10 Total Meetings in FY 2018
Bill Burrows, Commission Chairperson
Johnathan Vodochodsky, Vice Chairperson
Sara DeAnda
Mark Custer
Adam Fullerton
Dennis Hill
Amy Macfarlane
Doug Strohbeen
Anna Vestweber

2018 Work Plan

The Historic Preservation Commission achieved this mission through the following 2018 Work Plan:

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

- A. Present 15th Annual Preservation Week and Treasure of Sioux City Award: Amy / HPC / Staff (Spring 2018).
- B. Pursue programs that enable the Commission to gain exposure for local history and landmarks: HPC (Continuous).
 - 1) Chamber of Commerce Membership
 - 2) Regional Historic Preservation Commission Consortium with Le Mars and Cherokee Historic Preservation Commissions
 - 3) Local Workshops
 - 4) Sioux City Journal Articles
 - 5) 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. Iowa Culture 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: HPC (Monthly Reports and Quarterly Placard Hearings).
- B. Monitor activities with significant properties: (Continuous).
- C. Continue to review the Planning and Zoning Commission and City Council agendas for pertinent preservation issues: HPC (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. Pursue fundraising opportunities to support HPC activities such as speakers, Historic Preservation Week, and Commission member training: HPC (Continuous).
- G. 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).

- H. Evaluate historically significant properties and/or areas to potentially designate as National or Local Historic Districts: HPC (Continuous).

Continue context studies.

- A. Initiate and coordinate surveys for areas of concern or areas of significance: Mark / HPC (Continuous).
- B. Study the potential development of a Downtown Historic District: HPC (Continuous).
- C. Develop a comprehensive property survey and data collection for each property in the predetermined downtown survey area: Johnathon / HPC (Continuous).
- D. Participate in the development and implementation of the citywide comprehensive plan update: HPC (Continuous).
- E. 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).

2018 Activities

In FY2018, 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. Some of the many projects and activities of the Commission 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. The Commission has focused on two notable properties that remain on the red-tagged list; 615 Douglas Street and 3927 Country Club Boulevard. An application to add 615 Douglas Street to Preservation Iowa's 2019 Most Endangered Properties list has been filed to help bring awareness to the local historic significance of the property and potential resources to help preserve the building.

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.

Regional Historic Preservation Commission Partnership – Sioux City, Cherokee, and Le Mars

In May 2018, members from Historic Preservation Commission traveled to Vermillion, South Dakota for the first annual Missouri Valley Historic Preservation Conference, attended by several Commissioners and staff from Iowa, South Dakota, Minnesota, and Nebraska, to share ideas, success stories, and best practices. A partnership of local Historic Preservation Commissions has formed from relationships built at the conference. Commissioners and staff from Sioux City, Cherokee, and Le Mars Historic Preservation Commissions meet quarterly to continue discussion, idea sharing, and potential partnership projects in the future.

Historic Preservation Week

The Sioux City Historic Preservation Commission, in partnership with various Sioux City organizations, spearheaded the 14th annual Historic Preservation Week event in Sioux City in May. Events centered around the 100 Year Anniversary of the Woodbury County Courthouse. The Commission assisted and participated in tours of the courthouse, an exhibit tour provided by Matt Anderson, Curator of the Sioux City Public Museum, and a 100th Anniversary Banquet with speakers Dr. Guy Wilson and Tim Samuelson. The Treasure of Sioux City award was presented to Jim Jung of the Historic Preservation Commission for not only his hard work on numerous initiatives to benefit the historic places of Sioux City for the past 17 years, but specifically for ensuring that the 100th year anniversary of the Woodbury County Courthouse was thoroughly and elegantly recognized and celebrated. Sioux City hosts one of the few week-long preservation events in Iowa and the Commission looks forward to highlighting more of Sioux City's historic resources in the coming years.

Other Involvement

The Historic Preservation Commission stayed involved in numerous other activities in FY2018.

- 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 two nominations to the National Register of Historic Places; the Milwaukee Railroad Shops Historic District nomination and the Everett School nomination.

- Sign and Mural reviews in historic districts.

Financial Update

The Historic Preservation Commission has continued to fundraise and currently has a balance of \$9,442.25. 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, occasional donations to historic preservation events, and other miscellaneous items as needed.

Looking Forward

A busy year is in store for the Historic Preservation Commission in FY 2019. Several projects have already begun. Planning for the 15th Annual Historic Preservation Week will begin in January, with a full week planned once again. The Commission has just begun the selection process of creating a boundary for a new Downtown Historic District as well as a greater downtown survey area, as explained in the 2019 Work Plan. The Commission will continue to address preservation issues as they arise in 2019. 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 2018 but the Commission and staff reviewed several minor exterior improvements in conjunction with the Pearl Street Façade Program awards.

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 4:00 p.m. in the Pre-Council Chambers, City Hall, 405 6th Street, Fifth Floor, on the following tentative dates in 2019:

January 8

February 5

March 5

April 2

May 7

June 4

July 2

August 6

September 3

October 1

November 5

December 3