

April 23, 2021

Greetings members of the Cherokee Historic Preservation Commission,

Following are the minutes of our virtual meeting via Zoom held on April 20, 2021. The minutes are based upon notes made by me at the meeting.

### **Cherokee Historic Preservation Commission**

#### **Minutes of the Virtual Meeting (due to Covid-19) on April 20, 2021**

Commissioners present Adamson, Busch-Mott, Greenwood, McLaren, Pingel, Samsel, Snapp, Story

Commissioners absent: Wilberding

Guest present: Mayor Craig Schmidt

Meeting called to order by Chairman Adamson at 5:15 p.m.

1. Minutes of the March 23, 2021 meeting were reviewed and approved on motion by Snapp and second by Greenwood. All ayes.
2. Cherokee History Week – September 17-26, 2021 – ideas and plans. The Cherokee Public Library, Sanford Museum, Depot Renovation, Inc., and Cherokee Trails Committee will collaborate with the CHPC. The Brummer Building will also be celebrating its 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary and may have some activities (perhaps tours) during the week.
  - **Kickoff for Cherokee History Week will be September 17, 2021** hosting the Chamber Coffee at the Depot and will publicize History Week's upcoming events. The Commission thanks Greenwood for volunteering to provide coffee and treats.
  - **Tuesday, September 21, 2021, 11 am and 2 pm**, Kerisa Pingel, Sanford Museum Educator, will lead tours of the Oak Hill Cemetery. Sign up will be requested.
  - **Wednesday, September 22, 2021, 6 pm**, Sanford Museum Archeologist Quinn Black will present his research of the White Mill area/Phipps cabin/farm areas on the Little Sioux River. There will also be photo slides provided by Trails Committee members, John Snapp, Barb Busch-Mott, and Laura Jones presenting 12-13 historical markers/signs being created for the new Magnetic/Fountain House Trail. Quinn will discuss these historical areas.
  - **Thursday, September 23, 2021**, Cherokee Trails Committee hopes to host an activity and the new Magnetic/Fountain House Trail.
  - No yet confirmed: The evening of **Friday, September 24, 2021** Paula Mohr give a presentation about her father, artist Wendell Mohr, and his watercolors of depots and trains in Iowa. To take place at the Cherokee Depot.
  - Depot Renovation, Inc. will be celebrating the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Cherokee Depot and hosting their annual Fall Family Festival at the depot on **Saturday, September 25, 2021 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.**
  - **Saturday, September 25, 2021 at 7:30 p.m.** - Sanford Museum will host author Bob Spurlock to speak regarding a book he has written about Martin Treptow. Martin Treptow died in combat in France during WWI. The American Legion Posts in Cherokee and in Bloomer, WI are named after Treptow.

- **Sunday, September 26, 2021 at 2-3 p.m.** - The Depot Renovation, Inc. will be hosting father and son hobo graffiti consultants at the Depot to explain the history of hobo graffiti in the Cherokee Depot. (CHPC, Depot Renovation, Inc., and the Sanford Museum will share the costs to host Mr. Spurlock and the graffiti consultants.)
  - **Sunday, September 26, 2021 from 1-4 pm**, Sanford Museum and Quinn Black will host Archaeology Day with activities for children and adults.
  - **During the week**, Sanford Museum will provide an informational display about the painter, Helen Johnson Hinrichsen, and her painting “Prairie Pioneer” which hangs in the Cherokee Courthouse. Hinrichsen is best known for her association with Stone City Art Colony and Grant Wood as well as her work as teacher at the School of Art Institute in Chicago. A replica of the painting will be hung in the museum.
  - Sanford Museum might also provide an informational display about Wendell Mohr, a well-known Iowa artist whose subjects were often depots and trains. Mohr painted a watercolor of the Cherokee Depot.
  - CHPC will facilitate self-guided walking tours of the historic downtown area of Cherokee. Maps of the historic building in Cherokee have been created by Commissioner Story.
  - Cherokee Public Library will have children’s activities and featured books.
3. Preservation Month will be Celebrated in Cherokee in May in support of the traditional National Park Service nationwide effort to publicize the importance of preserving the built environment for future generations. There will be minimal in-person activities due to COVID-19 pandemic. CHPC plans to feature the owners and their properties which have been listed in the NRHP and that feature the bronze plaque of the NRHP via newspaper and social media. CHPC will announce that the Cherokee History Week in May will be a joint effort between the CHPC, Depot Renovation, Inc., Sanford Museum, Cherokee Public Library, and Cherokee Trails Committee.
  4. Wilson School Apartments – Nothing new to report.  
Brummer Building — A 501C3 has been created to purchase the building. The Brummer Legacy Foundation is currently raising funds to purchase the building. The first phase of improvement will be to secure the stone façade. Several committees have been created by the Foundation on which citizens can serve.
  5. NW Iowa Regional Heritage Tourism (Cherokee, LeMars, Sioux City) - Chairman Adamson asked that we continue to think about tourism ideas in preparation for in-person meetings with the committee once it is safe to do so.
  6. Bills, if any, to turn in. \$5.35 to Samsel for center punch.
  7. Cherokee Community Foundation balance (CHPC) \$2,794.74
  8. Friends of Historic Preservation balance \$2317.09
  9. Chairman Adamson thanked Sanford Museum for hosting Coffee with the Curator’s featuring the plaque found in an antique store in Carroll, Iowa that was given to Chairman Adamson. As reported in the last month’s minutes, research has found that it was on display in the original Cherokee Courthouse and is in

recognition of veterans from the Cleaves Regiment of the Civil War. The Sanford Museum accepted the item into their collection.

10. Items not the agenda:

- Busch-Mott would like agendas for Cherokee History Week and the walking maps and brochures given to Richard Zetlow of LeMar's Historical Commission so that they can be made available to RAGBRAI riders.
- Discussion with Mayor Schmidt regarding the demolition of the building at 220 W. Cedar St, Cherokee. Story will look into having the City inform the Commission of any building (commercial or residential) that is 50 years or older that is slated for demolition. The Commission would like to have the opportunity to document those buildings with photos, etc.
- Pingel shared that Archaeologist Black found ceramic shards, marbles, jars, etc. on the old Fountain House grounds.

11. Next regular Commission meeting scheduled for Tuesday, May 25, 2021 at 5:15 to take place via Zoom.

Meeting adjourned at 6:10 on motion by Snapp, second by Samsel. All ayes.  
Julie McLaren, Secretary

#### Cherokee Historic Preservation Commission Work Plan for 2021

1. Plan and coordinate History Week (possibly a week in September 2021).
2. Continue to work with the Sioux City and Le Mars Historic Preservation Commissions in

the development of a Northwest Iowa Heritage Corridor.

3. Continue to promote saving Cherokee's endangered buildings including the Brummer Building and the Wilson School.
4. Work on additional driving/walking tour maps and cell phone tourism for the both the Cherokee Commercial Historic District and the historic residential districts of Cherokee.
5. Continue to assist with the development of signage highlighting the historic sites along the new walking and bike trail in Cherokee.
6. Continue to update the Cherokee Historic Preservation Facebook page and add additional photos and historical information to our website.
7. Award a plaque to highlight the work of a local property owner to honor their work in the preservation of their building or home for our annual history week event.
8. Discuss applying for a grant to nominate/create a historic residential district near the new Magnetic Park trail system which is under construction.
9. Create a brochure and map of our twelve buildings and homes that are on the National Register of Historic Places.
10. Host in partnership with the Sanford Museum and Depot Renovation, Inc. a presentation by Bob Spurlock, author of a new book on Martin Treptow, a former Cherokee barber, who lost his life in WWI. This hopefully will be in conjunction with history week in September which will also be the 125 th anniversary of the renovated depot. This to celebrate and note the importance of the Railroad to our town's establishment and prosperity over the years. Also, to recognize the thirty years of preservation practices in renovation and maintenance of the Depot and grounds by the volunteers of Depot Renovation, Inc.