

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

MEETING MINUTES

September 16, 2025

A meeting of the Sioux City Historic Preservation Commission was held on this date at 4 p.m. at City Hall, 405 6th Street, 5th Floor, Council Chambers.

1. Call to Order

Schuldt, Staff Liaison, called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. The following members being present on call of the roll: Matt Scott, Amy Macfarlane, Larry Obermeyer, Johnathan Vodochodsky, Teresa Hebert, Kathie Pfaffle (Remote), and Jack Walsh. Absent: Adam Fullerton (Excused) and Ralph Swain (Excused).

2. Approve minutes for August 5, 2025

Scott (Macfarlane) motioned to approve the minutes from the August 5, 2025, meeting. All present voted aye. (7-0)

3. Old Business

a. Grant Opportunities/Update:

Schuldt said the Commission will plan to apply for the CLG grant cycle later this year, once the application window opens, which is contingent on funding from the National Park Service.

b. CLG Archaeological Survey Update:

Schuldt stated that staff is moving forward with a National Register nomination for the project and has been collaborating with both the National Park Service and the State Historic Preservation Office.

c. Discuss Ghost Sign Definition:

Schuldt stated that he and Scott had a conversation with Avery Brothers regarding the original painting dates of several ghost signs. The practice was discontinued following the adoption of the 1976 Municipal Code, and no new signs have been painted since. They discussed dividing responsibilities to create an inventory of the ghost signs and evaluate their current locations. Schuldt has a text amendment prepared to aid in the restoration of the ghost signs and tile entrances that would allow for a path to address the restoration of the ghost signs.

4. New Business

a. Historic Pearl District Funding and Expansion

Schuldt stated that the Economic Development Department has funds available to support the creation of historic districts and the listing of properties on the National Register of Historic Places. They encouraged the Commission to consider expanding the proposed Historic Pearl District, suggesting it be reshaped into a more uniform rectangle and extended a few blocks north.

Vodochodsky and Macfarlane shared that their previous efforts to establish a larger downtown historic district had been hindered by the State Historic Preservation Office. In their view, the Commission should maintain the Historic Pearl District as proposed and instead explore individual property listings or the creation of separate historic districts.

b. Historic Research and Preliminary Evaluation – Briar Cliff University Nomination

Obermeyer stated that Briar Cliff University has begun exploring the possibility of placing the Chapel, Heelan Hall, and potentially several other buildings on the National Register of Historic Places or establishing a historic district.

- c. Initiation Phase IIa Archaeological Investigation – Milwaukee Railroad Shops
Obermeyer stated that the Railroad Museum is moving forward with its Phase II study and has begun working with the State Archaeologist to develop a plan for advancing the project.
- d. Rose Hill Letters
Schuldt stated that staff recently sent out informational letters regarding properties in the Rose Hill Historic District and has spoken with a few residents so far.
- e. Monthly Financial Report
Schuldt stated that the Commission has \$6,505.06 in the main account and \$20,000 in the Historic Pearl District account.

5. Committee Reports

- a. Website Update
Schuldt stated that he received an email from the State Historic Preservation Office regarding the eligibility list posted on the Commission's website. The SHPO indicated that they reevaluate properties every five years, and the current list is outdated. They advised the Commission to reference the SHPO website directly for up-to-date property eligibility information.
- b. Social Media
Schuldt stated that he has been posting videos earlier highlighting the dangers of painting brick. The Facebook page is continuing to grow and is nearing 2,600 likes.
- c. Red Tags/Properties of Interest
Schuldt went through the Red Tag list with nothing noteworthy.

6. Announcements/Other Business

- a. New Open Meetings Law
Schuldt stated that Walsh and Obermeyer will need to take the new learning session. Macfarlane mentioned that she would likely reapply.
- b. Tour Ideas
Schuldt stated that he would try to set up a tour of the former East Junior High School so the Commission could view the building's restoration.

7. Adjourn

- a. On a motion by Scott (Macfarlane) the meeting adjourned at 4:55 p.m. All present voted aye. (7-0). The next meeting scheduled will be on Tuesday, October 7, 2025, starting at 4:00 p.m.

Larry Obermeyer, Chair

-or-

Matt Scott, Vice Chair