

MINUTES

Cheney Historic Preservation Commission

April 7, 2005

Commissioners Attending: Bettye Hull, Martin Seedorf, Nikki Gamon, Steve Emerson, Aimee Flinn and Chris Stewart.

Commissioners Absent: None (one position vacant).

Staff Attending: Glenn Scholten and Susan Beeman.

Councilpersons Attending: None.

Call to Order: Chairman Hull called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m. following the dedication of the interpretive marker for the Central Cheney Historic District at the corner of 1st & College Avenue.

Approval of Minutes: Motion was made by Commissioner Gamon, seconded by Commissioner Seedorf, to approve the minutes of the March 3, 2005 Regular Meeting of the Historic Preservation Commission as distributed. Motion carried.

Citizen Participation: None.

Old Business: West Cheney Survey Project Progress Report. Mr. Emerson reported that the photography and field work are finished, and the work is on schedule. They are starting to write the building descriptions, and still need to incorporate the information gathered in the community meetings.

Ms. Beeman distributed copies of ownership information for properties in the survey area, and the transcript of notes from the first community meeting. She explained that copies of the recording can be made available on CD to anyone who wants to hear the recording.

Discussion followed on having follow-up sessions with some of the people who attended the community meetings, along with some of the others who did not make it to the community meetings. It was decided to send out letters to owners of property in the survey area to explain the survey process and how their property might be impacted by a historic designation. We will also encourage owners to contact us if they have information or photographs to share for the survey.

Commissioner Stewart asked how we will begin to marry this information for the survey. We have the taped records of meetings, and a spreadsheet showing property ownership. How will this all come together? Discussion followed on how to verify information that we are told. Mr. Emerson explained that we include anecdotal information to add to the color of the nomination and its history. The people involved are not famous enough to qualify under Criteria B, so if someone's memory is not 100%, it does not hurt the nomination. The anecdotal information is also valuable for the survey report, which will include a discussion of general trends in the development of that part of town.

Commissioner Stewart suggested that there might be some broader product attached to this information, as a result of documenting this information via oral history. Discussion continued on

ways to make this information available, and who should contact various individuals to schedule further interviews.

New Business: 2006 Grant Application. Ms. Beeman reviewed the grant application which was submitted for a 2006 survey project proposal. As we had discussed at last month's meeting, the proposal is to look at houses of appropriate age throughout portions of Cheney which have not had much survey work, and to complete a survey of 25 of the buildings which appear to have the best integrity. She explained how much time the Commission members are expected to donate to complete the 2006 project.

New Business: National Trust Preservation Conference in Portland, Oregon & Scholarship Opportunities. Commissioner Hull reported on the scholarship opportunity that is available, which she had received in 2001 to attend the annual conference in Providence, RI. The Portland conference is scheduled for September 27 – October 2, 2005. Conference registration is \$295, and the scholarship covers travel, shared lodging and the conference registration. Applications are due by June 1.

Commissioner Reports: Commissioner Flinn reported that she had sent a press release to the Spokesman-Review and to the Inlander about our dedication of the historic district marker which resulted in an article published today in the South Side Voice, the magazine supplement to the Spokesman.

Commissioner Hull suggested that we sent a press release to the Eastern advertising the opening on the commission.

Commissioner Emerson reported that he has been working on the West Cheney survey project.

Commissioner Gamon will be absent from the May meeting.

Commissioner Seedorf reported that he had lunch with Charles Mutschler, who offered to help us with photos for the survey project. He also indicated that at some time in the future, he might be willing to serve on this Commission again.

Commissioner Hull recommended a book by John Barry entitled "The Great Influenza," about the influenza pandemic of 1913-1918.

Staff Reports: Ms. Beeman reported that we had an inquiry on the Chaffee House at 104 2nd Street; the owner may be interested in pursuing local register listing. The owner mentioned that on two occasions, a carload of older women had stopped by to look at the house and reported that they had lived there in the upstairs rooms while they were attending the teachers' college. There were four bedrooms in the upstairs, each with a potbellied stove, and at that time, a veranda wrapped all the way around the house. The ladies had returned to Cheney to attend some kind reunion or activity at EWU.

Chairman Hull suggested that we contact Ann Heehn to request that CHS reunion attendees bring photos & stories to us. Commissioner Flinn noted that the Fox Theater is conducting a campaign called "Light Up the Fox with Memories" right now to collect history on the theater.

Ms. Beeman reported that we have sent notes of appreciation to people who attended the first two community meetings.

Adjournment: There being no further business, Chairman Hull adjourned the meeting at 6:25 p.m.

Approved:

Bettye Hull, Chairman

Susan Beeman, Secretary