

MINUTES

Cheney Historic Preservation Commission

May 5, 2005

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

Commissioners Absent: Nikki Gamon.

Staff Attending: Glenn Scholten and Susan Beeman.

Councilpersons Attending: None.

Call to Order: Chairman Hull called the meeting to order at 5:25 p.m.

Approval of Minutes: Chairman Hull noted that the correct name of the book mentioned last month was The Great Influenza 1918. Motion was made by Commissioner Emerson, seconded by Commissioner Flinn, to approve the minutes of the April 7, 2005 Regular Meeting of the Historic Preservation Commission as corrected. Motion carried.

Citizen Participation: None.

Old Business: West Cheney Survey Project Progress Report. Mr. Emerson reported that the first draft of the inventory forms were turned in today for submission to OAHF for their 30-day review. The field work is finished, and the survey report will be finished in the next few days. We still need to complete the transcript of the 2nd community meeting, and to complete interviews for additional 'local color.' He noted that very few of the houses in the survey area might qualify for the national register. He attributed that to the tendency of Cheney residents to be "do-it-yourself-ers," always adding something to the building. Up until the 1950s, the students lived on campus and residential areas of town were relatively unaffected by the transient student population. The phenomenon of renting to students came fairly late, but by now, the majority of our buildings have been affected by it.

Ms. Flinn noted that several buildings in the survey area were moved from their original locations to make way for higher density housing. Mr. Emerson added that people sometimes started out with little farmhouses on the outskirts of town, and when they retired and moved into town, they moved the houses in with them. There used to be lots of farmhouses in the area that is now the Turnbull National Wildlife Refuge, but not any more. Some of those houses are probably in Cheney now.

Discussion followed. Ms. Beeman noted that we still have the opportunity to interview several people to collect additional information for the survey project. She will be scheduling some of those interviews beginning next week.

New Business: Local Register Application – 802 1st Street. Ms. Beeman reported that we have received a local register application from John Brewer for the house at 802 1st Street. The information lacked some detail, so the Planning Department intern is working on additional research before bringing the application to the Commission. The house was recently occupied by an attorney, but has not been well maintained. Commissioner Emerson reported that he has visited the house, and it is in poor condition, and also has been modified and re-modified over the years. It was originally an old farmhouse, but it has three different types of foundation, and three different types of siding in a mish-mash of additions and renovations. Commissioner Emerson said that in his opinion, there is really no way to make it eligible for the national register. However, it may still be a candidate for the local register, depending on what is found with some additional research. Discussion followed.

Commissioner Reports: Chairman Hull reported that she had visited with the owners of the house at 120 4th Street, on the corner of 4th and H Streets. A couple from Coeur d'Alene has purchased it and is converting it to a triplex, but they are interested in maintaining the historic character of the building. Chairman Hull gave them some information on the historic register.

Commissioner Seedorf reported that he has contacted Fred Lauritsen to see if he would be willing to fill the vacancy on the Commission. Mr. Lauritsen is interested, and Commissioner Seedorf will contact the Mayor to suggest his name for consideration.

Commissioner Flinn reported on the status of the West Central nomination, and reported that the State Advisory Council will consider the nomination on June 24. The Spokane HPO is working to organize a neighborhood realtors' meeting to acquaint realtors with characteristics of the district. Commissioner Flinn also mentioned that she has an article in this month's Nostalgia magazine about John C. Petts, who was Kirtland Cutter's first partner after the fire. They were only partners for a few years.

Commissioner Stewart reported on the EWU Department of Education's recent 100th birthday celebration for the Jore School. Commissioner Stewart distributed copies of a children's reader about the schoolhouse to members of the Commission.

Commissioner Stewart also reported that the grand re-opening of the Cheney Historical Museum is scheduled for Saturday, May 7, from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. This will be the first opportunity for the public to visit the museum since it suffered water damage nearly 1-1/2 years ago.

Commissioner Hull noted that the CAMP training for Commission members is tomorrow in Spokane. Commissioner Hull, Commissioner Flinn, and Ms. Beeman will be attending.

Commissioner Flinn announced that the Museum of Arts & Culture is sponsoring tours of Audubon Park this weekend from 12 to 4, and she will be assisting with the tours on Saturday. Tickets are \$12 each for non-members.

Staff Reports: Ms. Beeman reported that the Moorman House may have a new home and a potential new life as a commercial use. A written proposal is expected within the next few days.

Adjournment: There being no further business, Chairman Hull adjourned the meeting at 6:15 p.m.

Approved:

Bettye Hull, Chairman

Susan Beeman, Secretary