

MINUTES

Cheney Historic Preservation Commission

July 7, 2005

Commissioners Attending: Bettye Hull, Nikki Gamon, Aimee Flinn and Chris Stewart.

Commissioners Absent: Steve Emerson and Martin Seedorf.

Staff Attending: Glenn Scholten and Susan Beeman.

Councilpersons Attending: None.

Call to Order: Chairman Hull called the meeting to order at 5:20 p.m.

Approval of Minutes: Motion was made by Commissioner Stewart, seconded by Commissioner Gamon, to approve the minutes of the July 7, 2005 Regular Meeting of the Historic Preservation Commission as distributed. Motion carried.

Citizen Participation: Chairman Hull welcomed Cheney resident Dave Simpson.

Old Business: West Cheney Survey Project Progress Report.

Ms. Flinn reported that Mr. Emerson will be providing a final copy of the survey report next week. The version that was submitted to OAHP lacked some details from the community history meetings which Ms. Flinn has already finished adding. Mr. Emerson is adding information from the final interviews and articles to the survey sheets.

Ms. Beeman reported that John MacCallum, editor of the Free Press, is looking forward to receiving our articles and has indicated a willingness to run them at a rate of approximately one article per month. He would prefer that each article be around 500 words. Some of the articles are longer and need to be shortened, and some are shorter, and could be lengthened. We will be finishing these up in the next week or so.

Old Business: Moorman House.

Ms. Beeman reported that the Moorman House is still looking for an owner. Mr. Richardson is submitting a loan application to the National Trust under a program that Commissioner Flinn notified us about which has been used to fund moving costs and renovation on historic buildings. The owner of the Moorman House needs to have it removed by the end of the year to eliminate his property tax liability for 2006.

Commissioner Reports:

Commissioner Gamon shared a copy of the 1983 Cheney Free Press Centennial Edition which she has received from her grandparents' estate. She also had a copy of the calendar that was produced in 1989 using photos of historic Cheney, in celebration of the Washington State

centennial. Commissioner Stewart noted that extra calendars are available at the Tillicum Museum.

Commissioner Gamon reported that she attended the Pathways to Progress potluck in July and represented the Commission at their annual meeting. She offered assistance of the Commission with a walking tour of the historic downtown to be held later this month, and also with a 'fun facts' placemat that is in the works that deals with the EWU-Downtown connection.

Commissioner Hull reported that she will be visiting two corners of Texas in the next couple of months, and is involved in some work on her house.

Commissioner Flinn reported on her recent trip to Brussels and Paris. She is with a Navy Guard unit stationed in Norfolk, Virginia, and was attending a NATO conference on standardizing amphibious operations.

Commissioner Flinn reported that the City of Spokane is planning a huge celebration of the grand re-opening of the Monroe Street Bridge on September 17-18. This will include a catered gala ball on the bridge sponsored by the Spokane Preservation Advocates on Friday, September 16. This will include a salmon dinner, a live band, auction and raffle, etc. Tickets are available at ticketswest.com for \$75 apiece, with proceeds to benefit the SPA. Saturday events will include 36 booths on the bridge, focusing on Spokane's past and future. The Monroe Street antique vendors will have outside displays, a vintage car show, food vendors, a stage with live bands all day long, tours of the nearby historic district, etc. Organizers are hoping for attendance of 20,000 for the weekend. They are looking for volunteers to help set up and take down tents and booths, help with security, etc. If you are interested, talk to Marlene Feist at 675-6740.

Commissioner Stewart reported that Auntie's Bookstore has announced publication of a new book on postcards of Spokane's past. They will have a book reading sometime this fall, and she will share additional information with commission members via email.

Commissioner Stewart asked about an appointment to the vacant position on this commission. Ms. Beeman reported that the Mayor has spoken to Fred Lauritsen and he has indicated willingness to serve on the commission. His appointment is expected to be ratified by City Council later this month.

Commissioner Stewart asked if Pat Kennedy, owner of the Malmo House at 105 W. 6th Street, had contacted the Planning Department about information on the Cheney Register of Historic Places. Ms. Beeman said that he has, and we will be providing information and an offer to help him put together a nomination. Mr. Kennedy's father was the Registrar, and later a Vice President of EWU, and he was the U.S. official who accepted the Japanese surrender in Indonesia at the end of World War II.

Staff Reports:

Ms. Beeman reported that the City's web site has been updated by a new web design company, although the content of the history pages is unchanged from our award-winning site. The main

difference with the new site is that staff members have the ability to update web pages without sending material off-site to the web designer.

Ms. Beeman reported that Mr. Scholten is working on a public participation plan for gathering community input on various aspects of the Cheney comprehensive plan. Historic preservation is one component of the comp plan, and public comment will be solicited on planning priorities. Ms. Beeman explained that the concept of identification and signage at the site of Cronk's Hill would be one example of something we will be looking for comment on.

This commission sent a resolution to City Council recently noting that Cronk's Hill is within our city limits, and it is likely be the site of residential development within the next 20 years. Since developers are required to contribute land and/or money to help meet recreation needs generated by their development, the Historic Preservation Commission has requested that when development occurs, the site of Cronk's Hill and Mary Cook's first school in Cheney be commemorated in that required park mitigation.

Mr. Simpson said that he was glad to hear that the Commission is addressing this now. He currently farms that land, and has been approached over the last 10 years by developers. Most of them suggest taking a bulldozer and leveling the hill.

Commissioner Stewart asked which of the City Council members are the designated liaison to the Historic Preservation Commission. Ms. Beeman said that Councilman Huff is our liaison, and he receives copies of agenda packets and other materials relating to the Commission.

Chairman Hull asked if we are ready to start placing the Local Register plaques. Ms. Beeman said that we can do that any time; it is mostly a matter of organizing the photo and presentation. Possibly we can coordinate some of those presentations to coincide with publication of articles from the survey project.

Discussion followed on the history of Medical Lake.

Commissioner Flinn asked about the cell tower that has been constructed in the block behind 1st and F Street. Ms. Beeman explained that Verizon Wireless had obtained a conditional use permit to build the tower there. Verizon's agent had obtained a letter from Greg Griffith at OAHP indicating the tower would not detract from the historic character of the area. Ms. Beeman noted that the Planning Commission required the associated building to be faced with brick in order to have it blend in to the surrounding historic buildings. Commissioner Flinn reported that there appears to be some inconsistency in how OAHP is applying criteria for cell phone towers in historic districts. Ms. Beeman noted that there are other industrial buildings in proximity to the cell tower, including the Grain Growers' storage buildings, the mill, and the railroad. Mr. Scholten noted that it is very hard to deny placement of cell towers, in that FCC requirements supercede local laws. The tower that was built is only 60' tall, which is much shorter than the 150' tower that was originally proposed.

Adjournment: There being no further business, Chairman Hull adjourned the meeting at 6:05 p.m.

Approved:

Betty Hull, Chairman

Susan Beeman, Secretary