

MINUTES

Cheney Historic Preservation Commission

March 4, 2004

Commissioners Attending: Charles Mutschler, Nikki Gamon, Bettye Hull, Steve Emerson and Chris Stewart.

Commissioners Absent: Martin Seedorf. (One position vacant.)

Staff Attending: Glenn Scholten and Susan Beeman.

Councilpersons Attending: None.

Call to Order: Chairman Mutschler called the meeting to order at 5:15 p.m.

Approval of Minutes: Motion was made by Commissioner Hull, seconded by Commissioner Stewart, to approve the minutes of the February 5, 2004 Regular Meeting of the Historic Preservation Commission as distributed. Motion carried.

Citizen Participation: Chairman Mutschler introduced Aimee Flinn and noted that she is a student in his Introduction to Public History class.

Old Business: Grant Project Progress Report. Commissioner Emerson reported that he has not made any more substantial progress on the survey update since his last report to the Commission, but plans to finish it up before the next meeting. Commissioner Mutschler reported that he is about half done with the photography, and has received back the prints from the first rolls of film. He will identify the photos from his index list and return them to staff for scanning. Commissioner Gamon reported that she has been working on entering property information into the database a couple of hours each week. Ms. Beeman reported that the GIS layers are nearly complete, and displayed maps showing inventoried & register properties.

Old Business: Commission Vacancy. Commissioner Emerson noted that Ms. Flinn has recently been hired full time at Archaeological & Historical Services, and said that she plans to submit a letter of interest to the Mayor indicating her willingness to serve on the Historic Preservation Commission. Chairman Mutschler thanked Ms. Flinn for her interest, and noted that she has excellent qualifications for the position.

Commissioner Stewart reported that she had contacted one of the community members whose name had been put forward at last month's meeting, and that person was possibly interested in serving at some time in the future, but not right away.

Old Business: Mooreman House, 308 4th Street. Mr. Scholten reported that following publication of an article on the house in the Cheney Free Press, he had received at least 9 telephone calls from people inquiring about the house. Some were interested in seeing the building preserved for some community or public use, and some were interested in moving and renovating the house for a private residence. He had referred several of the callers to the building's owner, and has begun research into the cost of moving the

house to a new location. The city-owned lot adjacent to City Hall is not an option, as the City has other plans for that space.

Discussion followed on possible locations and uses for the building, and whether there may be grant funding available to help save and relocate the house. The Commission agreed that grant funding cycles are unlikely to be timely enough to remove the building before the present owner wants to begin construction of his apartment project. The best possible option would be for a private party to acquire the house and move it to a suitable location. Mr. Scholten will contact the building owner to see if he has any firm offers yet.

New Business: OAHF Grant 2004-2005. Ms. Beeman showed maps which have been created using the updated historic property information on the City's GIS system, which have been developed as part of our current grant project. We are able to show housing age by decade; houses already surveyed; and houses which may be eligible for register consideration. Discussion on how to develop a grant application for additional survey work, and whether to focus on a district application or on surveys of individual houses, possibly selecting the best 30 candidate properties from our listing of oldest houses. Commissioner Gamon suggested that we focus attention on the residential area west of campus, along 6th Street. Commissioner Emerson stated that he favors the district approach rather than a piecemeal survey. Commissioner Hull stated that she also is in favor of a grant application for survey work.

NOTE: 6:00 p.m. -- Commissioner Hull was excused at this time.

Discussion continued on the merits of using volunteers, possibly a University class, to do survey work, as opposed to hiring a consultant. Commissioner Emerson volunteered to provide an estimate of the number of houses in the area roughly bordered by 4th and 7th Streets, to the west of the university, which could be the subject of a survey. Ms. Beeman will send drafts of the grant application text out early next week.

Commissioner Reports: Commissioner Stewart reported that the Spokane newspaper had contained an article on a group of Pakistani visitors coming to study in the education department, and noted that they toured the one-room schoolhouse as part of their visit. Their school system is presently very similar to the way students were taught in the one-room school.

Staff Reports: Ms. Beeman reported that she will be working full-time in the Planning Department for the next several months.

Adjournment: There being no further business, Commissioner Stewart made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Commissioner Emerson. Motion carried unanimously. Chairman Mutschler adjourned the meeting at 6:15 p.m.

Approved:

Charles Mutschler, Chairman

Susan Beeman, Secretary