

MINUTES

Cheney Historic Preservation Commission September 2, 2004

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

Commissioners Absent: Charles Mutschler, Martin Seedorf and Steve Emerson.

Staff Attending: Glenn Scholten and Susan Beeman.

Councilpersons Attending: None.

Call to Order: Vice-Chairman Hull called the meeting to order at 5:18 p.m.

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

Citizen Participation: None.

Old Business: Grant Project Progress Report. Ms. Beeman reported on the database update project. The bronze plaques are in the final polishing stage and should be here within a couple of weeks. This will give us an identifying marker for each building on the local register. In going through paper files, we have run across some additional survey and nomination forms which are being entered this week. Ms. Beeman distributed copies of the nomination form for the Odd Fellows Lodge to the national register, which was completed in 1989. This document included a description and photograph of the dedication ceremony for the new lodge, which was completed in December 1904.

We will be able to link the historic database to the GIS mapping system, allowing us to share information easily. Mr. Richardson has budgeted for software purchase in 2005 which would allow us to publish maps easily on the city's web site, making this information even more readily available to the public.

New Business: Cronk's Hill. Ms. Beeman described a suggestion from Mr. Richardson that the Commission request that any future development in the area Cronk's Hill be undertaken in consideration of the first school class that was taught by Mary Cook at that location. In 1880, settlers built a fort on top of Cronk's Hill that was intended to be used for protection in case of Indian unrest. The fort was used for school classes that year, making it the location of the first school in Cheney. With our community's university heritage, Mr. Richardson thought that setting aside a portion of Cronk's Hill for a neighborhood park with an interpretive marker might be appropriate. Mr. Scholten identified the area of Cronk's Hill on a map, and showed its location in relation to the Golden Hills and Field of Dreams subdivisions. He noted that the area is presently zoned for single-family residential development. There are no plans at this time for development on or immediately adjacent to Cronk's Hill. Discussion followed.

Commissioner Gamon made a motion that the Commission ask City Council to consider requiring preservation of a portion of Cronk's Hill and installation of an educational marker regarding the history of Cronk's Hill as a condition of future development on that site. Seconded by Commissioner Stewart. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Reports:

Commissioner Gamon reported on the juried quilt show in which she participated recently, and showed the quilted wall hanging that was accepted for that show. Commissioner Hull shared a photograph of a bronze location marker that was placed in the concrete sidewalk in Anaheim, California. She thought this would be a nice way to identify the boundaries of the Central Cheney Historic District, if similar markers, or even painted diagrams, could be placed on street corners within the district. Discussion followed.

Commissioner Flinn shared copies of the current Nostalgia magazine which contains her article on the Spokane Navy Trophy, and described the history of the trophy. She added that her job at the Spokane Historic Preservation Office has been extended through December. She is working on the inventory of what will be the largest historic district in the country, with nearly 1,000 buildings. The subdivision was platted by William Nettleton in 1887, and most of the buildings were constructed between 1880 and 1910. The area contains very few modern homes.

Adjournment: There being no further business, Commissioner Stewart made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Commissioner Flinn. Motion carried unanimously. Chairman Hull adjourned the meeting at 5:52 p.m.

Approved:

Charles Mutschler, Chairman

Susan Beeman, Secretary