

MINUTES

Cheney Historic Preservation Commission January 7, 2010

Commissioners Attending: Bettye Hull, Scott Wilbanks, Fred Lauritsen Vance Youmans, Charlie Mutschler and Chris Stewart.

Commissioners Absent: None (one position vacant).

Staff Attending: Susan Beeman.

Councilpersons Attending: None.

Guests: Ann Heehn & Becky Thomas.

Call to Order: Chairman Hull called the meeting to order at 5:21 p.m.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the November 5, 2009 meeting were approved as distributed.

Citizen Participation: None.

Old Business: 2009 Certified Local Government Report.

Ms. Beeman reviewed the 2009 annual report which was submitted to the Washington Department of Archaeology & Historic Preservation last month. This report summarizes our preservation activities as a 'certified local government.'

New Business – Commission Vacancy.

Ms. Beeman announced the arrival of Commissioner Nechanicky's daughter, Helena Sophia, earlier this week, and reported that Commissioner Nechanicky has opted not to accept a reappointment to the Commission in 2010. Discussion followed on possible names to suggest for a replacement.

New Business: Potential Local Register Application – 217 B Street.

Ms. Beeman reported that we have been contacted by the owner of the house at 217 B Street, which was Ms. Heehn's childhood home. The owner is interested in the local register, and the Special Valuation program. He has recently made significant repairs to the building after damage was caused by renters. Although the house is not architecturally significant, its association with the Fisher family makes it eligible for register listing. George Fisher was a teacher and principal at the Cheney High School for many years, and served as Mayor and a member of City Council. The Cheney School District Administration Building is known as the

Fisher Building, in his honor. Ms. Heehn, Mr. Fisher's daughter, has offered to provide information for the local register application.

New Business: 2010 Grant Project: Landscape Workshop.

Ms. Beeman explained that we have received a grant of \$2,535 from the Washington Department of Archaeology & Historic Preservation (DAHP) for a grant to host a workshop on landscaping for historic buildings. She report that LaVerle McCandless is willing to present one workshop session on her research for the landscape portion of the Sterling-Moorman House. Discussion followed on other possible workshop topics and format, including possible dates. Ms. Beeman will check into possible locations on the EWU campus and follow up with the suggested presenters, and will report back by email.

Commissioner Reports:

Commissioner Stewart shared copies of an article from the EWU newsletter entitled 'Seeking Digital Life for Local History.' She asked if the Mayor will be changing Council assignments for 2010; it would be great to have active Council representation with the Historic Preservation Commission.

Commissioner Hull shared photos of bad window replacements from the National Trust magazine.

Commissioner Lauritsen reported that he does not think the Sutton Park neighborhood is going to form a historic district. He said that the Historic Downtown Cheney Partnership is still meeting, although he has not attended the last couple of meetings as the emailed meeting announcements are coming a day late.

Commissioner Wilbanks attended the IWW rally in downtown Spokane.

Staff Reports:

Ms. Beeman reported that construction is continuing at the Utility Building, with a likely move-in date of mid-April. The comprehensive plan process is underway, and there will be another opportunity to participate in a public workshop in February.

Adjournment: There being no further business, Chairman Hull adjourned the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

Approved:

Bettye Hull, Chairman

Susan Beeman, Secretary