

MINUTES

Cheney Historic Preservation Commission February 1, 2007

Commissioners Attending: Bettye Hull, Charlie Mutschler, Fred Lauritsen, Steve Emerson, Aimee Flinn and Chris Stewart.

Commissioners Absent: Nikki Gamon.

Staff Attending: John Montague and Susan Beeman.

Councilpersons Attending: None.

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

Approval of Minutes: Motion was made by Commissioner Stewart to approve the minutes from the December 7, 2006 regular meeting of the Historic Preservation Commission, with the correction of a spelling error on the last page. Seconded by Commissioner Mutschler; motion carried unanimously.

Citizen Participation: None.

Old Business: Workshop Plans. Ms. Beeman reported that she had contacted Lisa Poplawski at the University and discussed scheduling issues related to the university's 125th anniversary in April. Discussion followed on possible dates for the workshop, and May 12 was tentatively agreed upon.

Old Business: Moorman House Update. Ms. Beeman reported that a donation of a 1920s-era electric light fixture has been received for use in the restoration of the Moorman House, and also a brass mailbox.

New Business: Cheney Delights Grand Opening. The grand opening of the new Cheney Delights dessert shop at 513 1st Street (the Old Cheney Post Office) will be held on Wednesday, February 14 at 11:00 a.m. Pathways to Progress has invited members of the HPC to attend. Chairman Hull will attend on behalf of the Commission.

New Business: 2008 DAHP Grant Cycle. An announcement has been received for grants through the Washington Department of Archaeology & Historic Preservation for the 2008 grant cycle. Discussion followed on possible projects, and what kind of activities would best further

our preservation goals. Chairman Hull suggested we look at improving signage in the historic districts; Commissioner Emerson noted that other cities have put plaques with thumbnail histories on certain buildings. Commissioner Stewart suggested involving other city officials and the discussion about our needs, and also contacting Pathways to see if they have any ideas. Ms. Beeman will check records of previous discussions and report back at next month's meeting.

New Business: Possible Local Register Application – 211 7th Street. Ms. Beeman reported that the owner of the Bert Larson House is interested in applying for local register status. He is planning to do some renovations, and would like to qualify for the Special Valuation program. Commissioner Emerson suggested that, depending on when the asbestos siding was applied, it may be approaching the 50-year mark where it could be considered historic material, as well. Discussion followed. Commissioner Flinn suggested that the County Assessor's office is beginning to publish their field sheets on the web site, and that may give an indication of when the siding was updated. The original field sheets are now housed in the Archives Building here in Cheney.

New Business: Certified Local Government Report – 2006. Ms. Beeman reviewed the 2006 CLG Report which was submitted to Olympia in December. Highlights of the year included the addition of 243 properties to the local inventory; 1 SEPA review; 1 local register listing; 11 regular meetings; and involvement in community events such as the CHS Alumni Picnic and the Rodeo Parade.

New Business: Election of Officers. Commissioner Mutschler made a motion to keep the current slate of officers for another term, with Commissioner Hull serving as Chairman, and Commissioner Gamon as Vice-Chairman. Seconded by Commissioner Lauritsen; motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Reports: Commissioner Mutschler reported that Hargreaves Hall will be renovated in the coming year; discussion followed on what sort of historic review will be done for this building. Commissioner Flinn noted that a Section 106 review will be performed at the state level, at the minimum. Discussion followed on ways to invite the University to partner with us more in the earliest phases of design for their historic building projects.

Commissioner Lauritsen reported that for EWU's 125th Birthday celebration, the EWU retirees' group will plant a tree near the one-room schoolhouse and install a plaque.

Commissioner Hull reported that she will be involved in a regional history contest for high school students in February, with the state contest following the first week in May. She participated in the state judging at last year's contest and found it to be a very enjoyable experience.

Commissioner Emerson reported that he has taken on several extra projects this year, including a survey of the Garland business district, Shadle High School, and Field Elementary School. He also reported on the Preservation Leadership Breakfast at the E.J. Roberts mansion in Spokane last week, and noted that Cheney HPC was well represented, as both Commissioner Hull and Commissioner Flinn also attended.

Commissioner Flinn noted that Commissioner Emerson is documenting the Field School prior to demolition.

Commissioner Stewart reported on the upcoming schedule of events at the Museum of Arts and Culture. Several February activities relate to historic preservation. She will send detailed information to commission members by email.

Commissioner Stewart also commented on the biographies that are being published in the weekly '*Good Morning Eastern*' newsletter. Recent editions have highlighted Benjamin P. Cheney, Doc Pearce, and Richard Hargreaves.

Staff Reports: Ms. Beeman reported on the continuing reorganization of the Planning & Building Departments into the new Department of Community Development.

Adjournment: There being no further business, Chairman Hull adjourned the meeting at 6:10 p.m.

Approved:

Bettye Hull, Chairman

Susan Beeman, Secretary