

MINUTES

Cheney Historic Preservation Commission March 3, 2005

Commissioners Attending: Bettye Hull, Martin Seedorf, Nikki Gamon, Steve Emerson and Aimee Flinn.

Commissioners Absent: Chris Stewart (one position vacant).

Staff Attending: John Montague, Glenn Scholten and Susan Beeman.

Councilpersons Attending: None.

Call to Order: Chairman Hull called the meeting to order at 5:17 p.m.

Approval of Minutes: Motion was made by Commissioner Seedorf, seconded by Commissioner Emerson, to approve the minutes of the February 3, 2005 Regular Meeting of the Historic Preservation Commission as distributed. Motion carried.

Citizen Participation: None.

Old Business: Waiver of Certificate of Appropriateness – Moorman House, 308 4th Street.

Ms. Beeman explained that we are at the point in the process where the Commission has no recourse but to approve the Waiver. She explained that the person who had spoken for the Moorman House has withdrawn his offer of interest, and is now hoping to build higher density housing on the lot he owns. The next person on the list has been notified and will be given an opportunity to make arrangements to move the house to a new location. Mr. Nation has indicated that he is not going to take any action immediately to remove the house, but is willing to let us continue to look for an alternative to demolition. But under the code, we have postponed approval of the waiver to the extent allowed, and it must now be granted.

Ms. Beeman noted that the code worked; immediate demolition of the historic building was averted, community awareness was raised, and we are continuing to actively pursue alternatives to demolition. It is not the intent of the code to interfere with the rights of property owners, but to allow a thorough investigation of alternatives to demolition of historic properties.

Commissioner Emerson made a motion to approve the Waiver of Certificate of Appropriateness for the Moorman House. Seconded by Commissioner Flinn; motion carried unanimously.

Old Business: Community Meeting Report & West Central Survey Project Work Plan.

Ms. Beeman asked how the commissioners felt about the results of the first community meeting. Commissioner Emerson said he felt it went very well, and good information was obtained. Commissioner Gamon suggested that one-on-one meetings with some of the attendees would yield even further information.

Commissioner Hull asked if the recording was of good quality, or if the times when several people were talking at once made it hard to decipher. Ms. Beeman explained that the recording system has

four tracks which correspond to the four microphones, and you can selectively mute the different tracks to isolate the speaker you are trying to hear more clearly. The recording of the first session has been reviewed and the expanded notes were sent on to Commissioners Flinn and Emerson.

Discussion continued. It was decided to try to schedule additional meetings with some of the community members, one or two at a time. Commissioner Emerson said that this type of information will not affect whether a property may be eligible for register listing, but it serves to round out and add local color to the surveys. Commissioner Hull suggested that we arrange the seating a little differently for the next meeting. Commissioner Gamon suggested that we work through the slides a little more slowly to give people opportunity to finish discussing each building thoroughly. Discussion continued.

New Business: 2006 Grant Cycle – Office of Archaeology & Historic Preservation.

Ms. Beeman asked for guidance from the Commission in identifying the greatest needs of the community relating to historic preservation. Discussion followed. Commissioner Hull said that she would like to see additional survey work in the areas of town platted in 1880-1882. Commissioner Emerson suggested that the greatest need is for additional survey work in areas on the periphery of the existing historic district, as opposed to trying to create a larger district, or additional districts. Ms. Beeman suggested that we can use the GIS system to identify houses by construction date. Discussion continued.

Commissioner Emerson made a motion that a grant application be submitted to request funds to expand the inventory of historic buildings, concentrating on buildings located on the periphery of the existing district. Seconded by Commissioner Gamon; motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Reports: Commissioner Flinn reported that work on the 1000-property West Central Historic District in Spokane is nearing completion. The draft nomination goes to the state this week for review. She presents it to the Landmarks Commission in two weeks, and it goes to the State committee in June. The district is roughly bounded by North Chestnut (west of Monroe) on the east; the west boundary is North Summit, along the river. The south boundary is West Bridge, and the north boundary is West Summit. The area surveyed makes up 25% of the entire West Central neighborhood, a very large area. The first draft of the nomination was 650 pages in length.

Commissioner Emerson reported that he has just finished a nomination of Hillyard High School building in Spokane. It has been used as an apartment house for the last 50 years, and is now owned by a developer who takes buildings in poor condition and renovates them with the assistance of the tax credit programs.

Commissioner Hull announced that this year's National Trust conference will be held in Portland, Oregon, and she encouraged Commission members to take advantage of this opportunity.

Commissioner Gamon reported that she is going to be teaching a series of classes at the Garden Gate Quilt Shop this spring.

Commissioner Seedorf reported that he has talked to one potential candidate for the vacancy on the commission, and that gentleman is not interested.

Staff Reports: Ms. Beeman reported that the historic marker is ready to be placed at its permanent location at the corner of 1st and College, and a date for installation will be scheduled soon. She reminded commission members to be keeping track of their hours on the grant project on the forms provided.

Adjournment: There being no further business, Chairman Hull adjourned the meeting at 5:52 p.m. p.m.

Approved:

Bettye Hull, Chairman

Susan Beeman, Secretary