

MINUTES

Cheney Historic Preservation Commission

March 4, 2010

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

Commissioners Absent: Vance Youmans and Ann Heehn.

Staff Attending: Susan Beeman.

Councilpersons Attending: None.

Guests: Becky Thomas.

Call to Order: Chairman Hull called the meeting to order at 5:23 p.m.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the February 4, 2010 meeting were approved as distributed.

Citizen Participation: None.

Old Business: 2010 Grant Project: Landscape Workshop.

Ms. Beeman reviewed the proposed agenda for the workshop. The Hargreaves Reading Room will hold up to 200, and the two classrooms for breakout sessions will hold up to 40 people each. Discussion followed on the workshop layout and how the agenda should be rearranged.

Commissioner Stewart asked if we could contact the editor of 'Good Morning Eastern' and see if they would mention the workshop in the campus daily paper, and also on the EWU web page which lists 'coming events.'

Ms. Beeman reported that we have had inquiries about the workshop from as far away as Walla Walla. There is quite a bit of interest in the topic of historic landscaping in the preservation community.

Discussion continued on promotions for the workshop. Commission members took flyers and vendor display applications to be distributed to area businesses with landscape and garden products. Right now, we have several vendors signed up, including the Cheney Garden Club, WSU Extension, the Sterling-Moorman House, and Millers Homestead (honey and bee products). We are inviting vendors to donate a small item for a door prize, and the Cheney Public Works Department will donate a yard of EcoGreen compost.

Ms. Beeman said that she had investigated the rules governing raffles, and that may be something we want to do in conjunction with a community activity, such as Mayfest weekend, or Rodeo Weekend.

We may have a packet-stuffing party on a weeknight prior to the workshop.

Old Business: Sterling-Moorman House Spring Work Plan.

Ms. Beeman reported that City crews have delivered a yard of compost to the house which can be spread over some grass seed, and there are still some repairs to finish on the porch. She asked for approval to schedule work days on the first Saturdays of the month, starting in April. At this time we do not need great numbers of volunteers, but there are still some jobs to finish up for a medium-sized work crew.

New Business: 2011 CLG Grants – Potential Project Discussion.

Ms. Beeman reviewed the requirements for the 2011 CLG grant: this is a ‘no match year.’ There is a total award amount of \$90,000 for the entire state, and the recommended maximum grant request should be in the \$8,000 to \$10,000 range. Consideration for CLG grant awards would be given to preservation planning, survey and inventory work, educational projects. There is generally not funding available for ‘brick and mortar’ projects. Discussion followed on our program priorities for next year.

Possible activities mentioned:

- Updated walking tour brochures, to include photos of each building referenced
- Expanded text information to include additional history, as opposed to mostly architectural
- Signage for the Central Cheney Historic District, either street signs or sidewalk markings, such as footprints
- Interpretive markers for parks, and possibly a directory of historic parks
- Inclusion of Veterans’ Memorial Park (originally City Park) in the brochure
- Signage for the Sterling-Moorman House

Ms. Beeman noted that a monument-type sign such as we have envisioned in front of the Sterling-Moorman House is currently not allowed in that zone. We expect there will be some substantial changes in the zoning code within the next year as a result of amendments to the comp plan and associated development regulations. Chairman Hull asked if signage could be mounted on the house, or mounted on a picket fence in front of the house.

Ms. Beeman suggested that we have the Kyle Pugh Memorial and the Sam Webb Memorial located near the intersection of N. 6th and Elm Streets, and nobody knows any more who those men are.

Commissioner Stewart mentioned that Michael Houser of DAHP had encouraged us to inventory everything, and not limit our efforts to documenting residences. There is so much more about a community that contains history. Placing an interpretive sign in the parks would give visitors an

opportunity to learn something significant about the community. She questioned the age of Sutton Park, and asked if it is older than City Park.

Commissioner Mutschler said that City Park was the first park to be designated. He has a nice biography of William Sutton that is growing as the EWU history project continues. He was a very interesting man. One of the facts that is coming to light is that he did not leave the college because he and Nellie got married. Instead, there is a Michigan Prairie in Adams County where William Sutton's whole family homesteaded, and according to letters in the governor's files, he had been planning on moving into ranching anyway at the end of the year. The college brought in a new trustee who did not get along well with Mr. Sutton, and Mr. Sutton offered to leave at the end of the term in March, instead. He was apparently a very popular teacher, but he was also a very shrewd businessman. He and his brother had a large acreage of wheat, in both Adams County and Spokane County, and his brother went on to make quite a lot of money in real estate in Seattle. William Sutton went on to be quite active in promoting education until he lost in the 1930 election. He was also involved in banking, and the rod-weeder company.

Commissioner Lauritsen suggested that markers in the parks could take the form of a brass plaque mounted on a basalt column, similar to the interpretive signage along College Avenue in the downtown. He felt that markers for pedestrian enjoyment would be better than signage visible from cars driving by.

Ms. Beeman suggested that we could build our grant application around an inventory of the City's parks. We could expand on the research and prepare an interpretive sign to be placed in each park to tell the story.

Discussion continued.

New Business: Preservation Month – May 2010.

After discussion, it was decided to order some bookmarks and posters to distribute for Preservation Month, and to see if we can get some information in the Mayor's Newsletter.

New Business: Mayfest 2010.

Ms. Beeman reported that Mayfest will be held on Saturday, May 22 this year. Our ability to give tours of the Sterling-Moorman House may depend on whether we are able to finish repairs to the front porch, and add railings to the stairs.

Commissioner Reports:

Commissioner Stewart asked if a Preserve America application is still a possibility this year. Ms. Beeman said that with other current projects underway, she is now aiming for the September application deadline.

Chairman Hull reported that the Spokane Preservation Advocates annual gala will be held on Saturday, May 20. The theme this year is the 'Wild, Wild West.'

Commissioner Wilbanks remarked that the Spokesman-Review has a section titled ‘100 years ago’ that details local events, and 1910 was a fairly active year in the Northwest.

Commissioner Lauritsen commented that the Cheney Free Press had a nice write-up about the workshop in this week’s edition. He added that efforts to form a historic district in the Sutton Park neighborhood have been tabled. There are so many absentee owners involved that the neighbors feel that it would be very difficult to gain the necessary support.

Staff Reports:

Ms. Beeman reported that the Community Development Department is bringing some amended municipal code language to City Council that should help code enforcement efforts in neighborhoods.

Construction is fully underway on addition to the Utility Building, and employees should be in the new space by mid-April.

Adjournment: There being no further business, Chairman Hull adjourned the meeting at 6:33 p.m.

Approved:

Bettye Hull, Chairman

Susan Beeman, Secretary