

**MINUTES – SPECIAL MEETING
Cheney Historic Preservation Commission
March 13, 2008**

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

Commissioners Absent: Aimee Flinn.

Staff Attending: Susan Beeman.

Councilpersons Attending: None.

Guests: Joan Mamanakis and Ann Heehn.

Call to Order: Chairman Hull called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m.

New Business: Preservation Planning Consultant Interview.

Ms. Beeman introduced Ernie Robeson, who summarized his interest in historic preservation, and his experience with historic building projects. He was involved with the original inventory work in the town of Dayton, assisting Nancy Campau with the research portion of the inventory. His most recent historic project was the renovation of the Clayton School for the Deer Park School District.

Mr. Robeson suggested that the key to restoration of the Sterling-Moorman House will be to keep it simple. Gothic Revival was a popular style until about 1860 back east, but was not common in the West, except maybe in California. It is quite rare in Washington, and the building is a real treasure.

Discussion followed regarding Mr. Robeson's qualifications and experience with historic buildings, and regarding his preliminary thoughts on how to approach the restoration of the Moorman House.

Commissioner Emerson stated that he felt very satisfied with Mr. Robeson's proposal and his experience. This appears to be a good match, in that additional work with historic buildings will add to Mr. Robeson's experience in the preservation community, and his passion and personal interest will be a real advantage to our project.

Chairman Hull thanked Mr. Robeson for his presentation. Following Mr. Robeson's departure, further discussion followed.

Ms. Beeman noted that under the state guidelines for cities in contracting for professional services, the Commission needs to determine whether Mr. Robeson is qualified to perform the

services outlined in the Request for Statement of Qualifications. If the Commission determines that he is qualified, they may recommend to City Council that the City enter into a contract with Mr. Robeson to perform those services. If the Commission determines that he is not qualified, they may reject his proposal and may approach any other qualified firm who has not submitted a proposal, and negotiate a contract to perform those services.

Commissioner Wilbanks asked if there were any other responses to our advertisement. Ms. Beeman said that we received several calls from people who asked to be kept on our notification list for projects of this nature, but Mr. Robeson was the only one who submitted a proposal.

Commissioner Stewart noted that Commissioner Emerson has already stated his approval of Mr. Robeson's credentials, and asked if we have any direct knowledge of his abilities.

Ms. Heehn said that she was familiar with one of the buildings listed in Mr. Robeson's portfolio, the Glen Dow Building. His association with Nancy Campau was meaningful, because Ms. Heehn believed that Ms. Campau would not work with someone she did not feel was qualified.

Commissioner Mutschler stated that they did a very nice job on the Clayton School, which was recognized with a state award.

Discussion continued. Chairman Hull noted that we may be better off dealing with a smaller architectural firm in that our project will not be one of many. Ms. Beeman said that he also has experience with landscaping around historic buildings, which is an important part of the bigger picture.

Commissioner Emerson made a motion to recommend that City Council enter into a contract with Ernest K. Robeson for preparation of a preservation plan for the Sterling-Moorman House. 2nd by Commissioner Mutschler; motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment: There being no further business, Chairman Hull adjourned the meeting at 6:07 p.m.

Approved:

Bettye Hull, Chairman

Susan Beeman, Secretary