

MINUTES

Cheney Historic Preservation Commission

May 7, 2009

Commissioners Attending: Bettye Hull, Charlie Mutschler, Fred Lauritsen, Scott Wilbanks and Aimee Flinn.

Commissioners Absent: Chris Stewart and Vance Youmans.

Staff Attending: Susan Beeman.

Councilpersons Attending: None.

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

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the April 2, 2009 meeting were approved as distributed.

Citizen Participation: None.

Old Business: Sterling-Moorman House Project.

Ms. Beeman reported on the status of work being done inside the house: most of the damaged plaster and wallpaper has been removed, with samples retained and many photographs taken. Volunteers are carefully removing baseboard molding and marking it for re-installation later. A perforated pipe was laid around the foundation for drainage. We had 23 volunteers last Saturday morning, thanks to a group from the Interested Ladies of Lambda Theta Alpha. There is still quite a lot of work that can be done by volunteers. The Commission agreed to continue the schedule of 1st & 3rd Saturday work days through the month of June, and we will reconsider where we are by July to see if we will continue later into the summer.

Discussion followed on the possibility of including brick sales flyers with the Cheney Extra, or with utility bills. Ms. Beeman will check on the cost of advertising. Can we do a booth at Mayfest on Saturday, May 30? Would the Farmers' Market management allow us to leave brick flyers on their table during the Farmers' Market? Ms. Beeman will check into those options.

Old Business: West 6th Street Historic District.

Ms. Beeman and Commissioner Lauritsen reported that the neighbors are meeting and continuing to research individual houses. They had some questions on the ramifications of historic district formation, and Ms. Beeman provided copies of the municipal code which dealt with restrictions on local register properties.

Staff Reports:

Ms. Beeman reported that the consulting contract has been awarded to Studio Cascade for a rewrite of the Comprehensive Plan, and topic groups are being formed to deal with specific areas. Mr. Jennings is interested in having a representative from the Historic Preservation Commission on the Arts & Culture group. Discussion followed, and Commissioner Lauritsen said that he was interested, depending on the meeting schedule, and particularly if he could share the responsibility with another commission member, much as he and Commissioner Wilbanks have done with the Pathways board.

Ms. Beeman reported that she attended a meeting of the Cheney Historical Museum supporters this week. The Tilicum Club is embarking on a fundraising campaign to raise money for repairs to one of the downtown buildings, with the idea that it will be a home for the museum for the next 3 years. They are hoping to increase membership in the Friends of the Museum to support this effort. You may join the Friends of the Museum or make a donation on-line at www.cheneymuseum.org.

Commissioner Reports:

Commissioner Flinn reported that the Museum of Arts & Culture is hosting their annual Mother's Day tours next weekend in the Nettleton – Pettit – Sherwood Additions, along Summit Boulevard. Most of the houses in this area were built between 1905 to 1915. Commissioner Flinn also noted that they are less than 30 days from the wedding date, and preparations are moving along.

Commissioner Mutschler attended the Oregon Humanities Conference which was held in conjunction with the Northwest History Conference and the Northwest Archivists' Conference in Portland. They toured some very nice homes, and homeowners gave some interesting first-hand glimpses into issues with the historic house restoration process.

Chairman Hull judged documentaries at the State History Day. She will be visiting Tennessee and Texas in June.

Commissioner Wilbanks reported on a recent trip to Shaniko, Oregon, a small town between Biggs and Bend on Highway 31. Although it is essentially a ghost town, there are some wonderful old buildings, and a barn full of antique cars. Commissioner Wilbanks reported it was well worth a trip through the town. Commissioner Wilbanks added that a new antique store and art gallery has opened in the old car wash along 1st Street.

Commissioner Lauritsen represented the Commission at the grand opening of Cheney Chic, a women's clothing store just opened in one of the historic buildings on 1st Street. He reported that Pathways, now called Historic Downtown Cheney, has lost all EWU funding, and is moving to an all-volunteer format.

Adjournment: There being no further business, Chairman Hull adjourned the meeting at 6:55 p.m.

Approved:

Bettye Hull, Chairman

Susan Beeman, Secretary