

## **MINUTES**

### **Cheney Historic Preservation Commission**

**June 4, 2009**

**Commissioners Attending:** Chris Stewart, Vance Youmans, Charlie Mutschler and Fred Lauritsen.

**Commissioners Absent:** Bettye Hull, Scott Wilbanks and Aimee Flinn.

**Staff Attending:** Patti Dean and Susan Beeman.

**Councilpersons Attending:** None.

**Guests:** Joan Mamanakis, Larry Cebula, Michael Ybarra and Bob Zinke.

**Call to Order:** Vice-Chairman Stewart called the meeting to order at 5:18 p.m.

**Approval of Minutes:** The minutes of the May 7, 2009 meeting were approved as distributed.

**Citizen Participation:** Ms. Mamanakis gave an update on the plans for relocating the Cheney Historical Museum. The Masons have voted to move forward with repairs to the building at 420 1<sup>st</sup> Street (most recently the Mobile PC Medic). The Tilicum Club has begun fundraising efforts, and has produced a newsletter to explain their situation. They are working to reach a wide geographic area, from Tyler to Marshall.

#### **New Business: Northern Pacific Depot.**

Ms. Beeman reported that the Burlington Northern Railroad no longer has a use for the old Spanish Mission-style building, and they have offered it to the city. The railroad is constructing a new building for storage. Mr. Jennings will make an informational presentation to City Council next week, and Commissioner Mutschler has agreed to be present to speak to Council on the integrity of the building, and its historic significance. The building was determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places in 1990, but was not listed because of the owner's concerns about safety. We are at the beginning of the process of investigating possible solutions. Discussion followed.

#### **Old Business: West 6<sup>th</sup> Street Historic District.**

Commissioner Lauritsen reported on the last neighborhood meeting regarding formation of a historic district. After discussion, the majority feel that they would need an overwhelming majority of owners within the potential district to vote in favor of designation, and many properties have been sold to out-of-town owners. It might be hard to get that majority to approve of a district. They are going to host a block party later in the summer to provide social

opportunities and information. At this time, they have suggested identifying themselves as a historic neighborhood, rather than pushing for historic district designation.

**Old Business: Sterling-Moorman House Project.**

Chairman Stewart asked for approval to submit the Letter to the Editor that was circulated in draft form earlier this week, promoting the house restoration project. By consensus, the Commission approved the letter to be sent to the Cheney Free Press.

Chairman Stewart reported on a conversation held with Dr. Zinke at the Sterling-Moorman House at Mayfest last Saturday. Dr. Zinke teaches a grant-writing class, and is interested in working with us to provide learning opportunities for his students which might also result in grant funding being made available for completion of the rehab project.

Dr. Cebula introduced himself and his student, Michael Ibarra. Dr. Cebula explained that he directs the Public History program at EWU. Mr. Ibarra may be interested in completing an internship with the City to help with additional research and promotional activities for the Sterling-Moorman House project. Dr. Cebula asked what activities might be most beneficial to the Commission in promoting their project with the Sterling-Moorman House. Discussion followed on possible activities that might be incorporated into the internship.

Ms. Beeman suggested that the Commission would be interested in locating descendants of the Sterlings and the Moormans, and possibly other long-term residents of the house. The Commission has also discussed developing a blog that would allow us to document progress on the house project to keep it in the public eye.

Commissioner Lauritsen noted that the National Trust will be holding its 2012 annual conference in Spokane, and they are likely to have a poster session. It might be interesting to develop some kind of display product for that conference that would document the restoration project.

Commissioner Lauritsen suggested that doing some research to see if the plans for the house had come from a standard plan book would also be helpful. Commissioner Mutschler recalled that Mr. Robeson, the architect who prepared the preservation plan, believed this was a pattern-book house, but he was not able to identify the specific plan. Ms. Beeman added that as we are searching for descendants, it would be wonderful to locate photographs of the Sterlings and the Moormans.

Dr. Cebula suggested that he and Mr. Ibarra work together on a learning contract for the internship, and he will be in touch with Ms. Beeman regarding details of the internship.

Chairman Stewart introduced Dr. Zinke and asked him to describe his interest in the Sterling-Moorman House project. Dr. Zinke explained that he is a professor of Public Administration at EWU, and teaches at the Riverpoint campus. One of his most popular classes is a course on grant-writing. He likes to send students out to write real grants for real organizations. He has an interest in Pacific Northwest history, and in the history of Cronk's Hill, and the early fort that was constructed there. Discussion continued.

### **Commissioner Reports:**

Commissioner Youmans gave a travelogue of his recent trip to London with a group of students, describing Jeremy Bentham's association with University College (now the University of London), and Highgate Cemetery.

Commissioner Mutschler will be leading a walking tour of the EWU Historic District on Monday, June 15, beginning at the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor lounge of Monroe Hall at 6:00 p.m. The annual tour is sponsored by the Friends of the JFK Library. The public is invited to attend.

Commissioner Lauritsen announced that Helen Boots will be leading a tour of Fairview Cemetery on Saturday, June 6, beginning at 1:00 p.m.

### **Staff Reports:**

Ms. Beeman distributed brochures from the Cheney Historical Museum. You can become a 'Friend of the Museum' by making a donation at their web site, [www.cheneymuseum.org](http://www.cheneymuseum.org).

The Cheney Comprehensive Plan rewrite process is underway, and the community will have several opportunities over the coming year to comment and give guidance on the comp plan. There will be a topic group working on the Arts & Culture section of the comp plan, and a member of the Historic Preservation Commission will be included on that topic group.

Ms. Beeman reported that the Washington Heritage Capital Grants Program has notified us that the Governor's budget has been approved, and we have been awarded a grant of \$87,000 for the Sterling-Moorman House Project, contingent on our raising \$55,000 in matching funds. In addition to the cash match, we are using the value of donated labor, and the value of work already completed on the house as 'in-kind' match. We are on track with the 'in-kind' match, but the immediate need is to raise the remainder of the cash match through donations, brick sales, or additional grants.

Discussion followed on the 'Walls Are Talking' series of articles for the Cheney Free Press.

**Adjournment:** There being no further business, Chairman Stewart adjourned the meeting at 6:38 p.m.

### **Approved:**

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Bettye Hull, Chairman

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Susan Beeman, Secretary