

MINUTES

Cheney Historic Preservation Commission

October 4, 2007

Commissioners Attending: Bettye Hull, Charlie Mutschler, Fred Lauritsen, Aimee Flinn, and Chris Stewart.

Commissioners Absent: Steve Emerson (one position vacant).

Staff Attending: Tom Richardson, Susan Beeman.

Councilpersons Attending: None.

Call to Order: Chairman Hull called the meeting to order at 5:47 p.m. following a site visit to 213 C Street, the Joseph & Cynthia Halasey House. Chairman Hull welcomed Scott Wilbanks, and Dave Teller of the Cheney Free Press.

Approval of Minutes: Motion was made by Commissioner Mutschler to approve the minutes from the September 6, 2007 regular meeting of the Historic Preservation Commission. Commissioner Stewart asked for a correction on page 2 to show that the family name associated with John Montague's property is spelled 'Grein.' Motion seconded by Commissioner Lauritsen; motion carried unanimously.

Citizen Participation: None.

Old Business: Moorman House Preservation Plan – Request for Proposals. Ms. Beeman explained that a sample Request for Proposals from another community was enclosed with the agenda packet, and asked for comments and suggestions to be incorporated in our RFP. Chairman Hull asked commissioner members to review the document and that comments be forwarded to staff by email.

New Business: Local Register Nomination – 213 C Street / Joseph & Cynthia Halasey House. Ms. Beeman explained that the Halaseys live in Hawaii, and had attended our workshop in May. They have been considering needed renovations to the C Street house, and have chosen to follow preservation principles. They submitted their application for listing on the local register prior to beginning work on the structure, but the onset of winter weather required them to take immediate action to replace the roof. Under our rules, the work they are doing presently would qualify under the Special Valuation program.

Ms. Beeman said that the Halasey's intentions are to repair the things needing repair, but to retain original materials and allow the house to remain representative of the period of construction. Discussion followed.

Commissioner Mutschler noted that Mr. & Mrs. Halasey have visited the EWU Archives several times doing research on the house. Chairman Hull asked if there might be any classes at EWU who might be able to contribute to the historic research effort, both for this building, and also for the Sterlings who are associated with the Sterling-Moorman House. Commissioner Mutschler said that he did not think there was a class currently which would see that sort of effort as part of the educational mission of the class, but he would inquire of colleagues in the History Department. Chairman Hull said that there is also a requirement that high school seniors complete 20 hours of a community service project, and the Tilicum Club is looking into the possibility of getting some help with historic research from that source.

Commissioner Mutschler made a motion to schedule a public hearing and start the process of listing the Halasey House, 213 C Street, on the Cheney Register of Historic Places. Seconded by Commissioner Stewart; motion carried unanimously.

New Business: Local Register Nomination – 325/327 1st Street / Independent Order of Odd Fellows Building (IOOF). Ms. Beeman explained that Steve Emtman is the new owner of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows Building at 325/327 1st Street. We have received an application for local register listing for that property. The IOOF Building was listed on the State and National Registers in 1990, but local register designation was not sought at that time, possibly because of the design review requirements that come with local register designation. At this time, Mr. Emtman is interested in some of the property tax incentive programs, as well as the historic designation, and has made application for the local register. Rather than complete another application form, Ms. Beeman suggested that we consider the National Register nomination form as being sufficient, with the attachment of a signature page indicating the present owner's approval for the application.

Commissioner Lauritsen made a motion to schedule a public hearing and start the process of listing the Independent Order of Odd Fellows Building, 325/327 1st Street, on the Cheney Register of Historic Places. Seconded by Commissioner Stewart; motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Reports: Commissioner Stewart said that she has been very interested in the historic barn initiative this year, and that the funding cycle has just closed, on October 1. She reported that a friend has just relocated to the outskirts of Cheney and is involved in negotiations to purchase and relocate a historic barn. They have missed the original deadline to apply for funding for the barn preservation initiative; apparently there will be future grant opportunities.

Scott Wilbanks offered information on the McMillan Barn, which was discussed at last month's meeting. This barn was built of logs, then covered with clapboard; it was the locale where Col. George Wright camped during the Indian campaign.

Commissioner Flinn reported that the 232nd Navy Ball will be held tomorrow night at the Davenport Hotel. She is the secretary for this year's Navy Ball Committee.

Commissioner Lauritsen reported that he attended the ribbon-cutting ceremony at Cornerstone Books, formerly Fishers of Men Bookstore. It was a well-attended ceremony, and the store is looking very nice.

Commissioner Mutschler reported that he is still seeing interest in the University's 125th anniversary. He was recently contacted by a gentleman who served in the 82nd Airborne, who has donated 4 scrapbooks of memorabilia from his military career.

Commissioner Lauritsen announced that Commissioner Mutschler will be addressing the EWU Retirees' group on October 22, beginning at 10:00 a.m. in the Senior Hall Lounge.

Staff Reports: Mr. Richardson announced that the City has hired a new staff planner, Elisa Rodriguez, who spent the last 10 years in the permit center for the City of Portland. He explained the recent reorganization of the Planning Department and Building Department into the Department of Community Development.

Commissioner Stewart asked for an update on the search for a city administrator. Mr. Richardson explained that the City Council is considering possible changes to the ordinance which requires the city administrator to be a resident of the city within 6 months of his first day on the job. Once that issue is settled, he expects the search for a new administrator will proceed.

Commissioner Stewart asked if we have replaced the intern in the Planning Department. Mr. Richardson said that we have had a couple of short-term contracts with interns for specific projects.

Adjournment: There being no further business, Chairman Hull adjourned the meeting at 6:28 p.m.

Approved:

Bettye Hull, Chairman

Susan Beeman, Secretary