

**MINUTES – SPECIAL MEETING  
Cheney Historic Preservation Commission  
November 20, 2008**

**(postponed from November 6, which was cancelled due to power outages at City Hall)**

**Commissioners Attending:** Bettye Hull, Fred Lauritsen, Steve Emerson and Chris Stewart.

**Commissioners Absent:** Charlie Mutschler, Aimee Flinn and Scott Wilbanks.

**Staff Attending:** Susan Beeman.

**Councilpersons Attending:** None.

**Guests:** Ann Heehn, Joan Mamanakis & Lou Cox.

**Call to Order:** Chairman Hull called the meeting to order at 5:25 p.m.

**Approval of Minutes:** Chairman Hull asked if there were any corrections to the minutes of the September 25, 2008 special meeting, or to the minutes of the October 2, 2008 regular meeting. The minutes of both meetings were approved as distributed.

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

Ms. Beeman reported that on the brick engraving process and pricing. Discussion followed on the desired appearance of the bricked area: should we offer larger size pavers for an increased cost, or tie pricing of the bricks to the location they will be placed? Commissioner Stewart suggested that since the Sterling-Moorman House is representative of a working-class house, that this should be reflected in the brick pavers. It was decided to keep the pavers to one size, a 4x8" brick, and encourage businesses to list names with an 'established date'.

Ms. Mamanakis said that she saw a paver display recently where the family names were displayed with the date they arrived in the area. It was a very effective way to commemorate pioneer families. Commissioner Lauritsen asked that staff confirm with our legal counsel whether there would be a tax deduction allowed for persons who contribute to the house restoration.

Commissioner Stewart said that a large part of the success of the library fundraising effort was due to the involvement of the Cheney Free Press in providing a weekly listing of the names of donors. Discussion continued on ways to get the word out about the project.

**New Business: Winterfest Table.**

Ms. Beeman reported that we have reserved a table at the Pathways 'Winterfest' craft show which will be held in the City Hall auditorium on Saturday, December 6 from noon to 4:00 p.m. Chairman Hull has spoken to a friend who is talented with poster design, and she is willing to

help us with a display. Ms. Beeman will contact her to coordinate details. Commissioner Stewart will help with the table.

**Staff Reports:** Ms. Beeman reported that the Community Development Department is reviewing statements of qualifications this week for a consultant to help with a rewrite of the City's comprehensive plan. There will be various opportunities for public participation over the coming year or 18 months, and she encouraged the commission to watch for ways to be involved in the process.

**Commissioner Reports:** Commissioner Lauritsen reported on the Pathways Board meeting that he attended earlier this week. Pathways is interested in developing a stronger association with the historic downtown, including, possibly, a name change for the organization to 'Historic Downtown Cheney.' Their current membership drive is using a railroad theme. The board was quite interested in the idea of a historic district in the 6<sup>th</sup> Street area.

Commissioner Emerson reported on his recent work with Archaeological & Historical Services, and the investigation of a cabin at the confluence of the Spokane and Little Spokane rivers, believed to be the oldest standing building in Spokane County. It was probably built in the 1870s by James Walton, also known as "Pea Vine Jimmy." Mr. Walton was born in Pennsylvania, grew up in Ohio, and went to California for the Gold Rush. He was a carpenter, and jack-of-all-trades. Commissioner Emerson explained that some trenching has been done on the site and a number of artifacts were recovered, including arrow points, Hudson's Bay Company trade beads, and a stone mold probably used for making harness buckles. A more scientific survey is being planned, but it has already been quite exciting.

Chairman Hull reported that she will miss the December meeting, as she has a Florida vacation planned.

Commissioner Stewart thanked Commissioner Lauritsen for his participation with Pathways to Progress. She appreciates his representation of the Historic Preservation Commission to the Pathways Board, and his representation of the Pathways Board back to the Commission.

**Other Business:** Ms. Mamanakis reported that the new museum site is up at [www.cheneymuseum.org](http://www.cheneymuseum.org), and that it includes expanded sections on Four Lakes, Amber, Tyler and Marshall, and numerous photographs. It is now possible to join the Friends of the Museum online, and to purchase items from the Museum store through the web site.

Ms. Heehn has developed a presentation on the history of Cheney, and is available to present it to civil and school groups. It is a good introduction to the offerings of the museum, and runs about 20 minutes in length.

Commissioner Lauritsen announced that he will be hosting a fundraising event for the Sterling-Moorman House project at his home in March. Jody Graves, a pianist from EWU, will be doing a concert at his home, to celebrate his birthday. Details will be provided closer to the event.

**Adjournment:** There being no further business, Chairman Hull adjourned the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

**Approved:**

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Bettye Hull, Chairman

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Susan Beeman, Secretary