

MINUTES

Cheney Historic Preservation Commission Regular Meeting August 1, 2019

Commissioners Attending: Bettye Hull, Scott Wilbanks, Lee Pierce, Martin Seedorf & Richard Donley.

Commissioners Absent: Steve Emerson (one position vacant).

Staff Attending: Brett Lucas & Susan Beeman.

Councilpersons Attending: None.

Call to Order: Chairman Hull called the meeting to order at 5:24 p.m.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes of the February 7, 2019 and April 4, 2019 regular meetings were approved as distributed.

Citizen Participation: None.

Old Business - Cheney Depot Report:

Ms. Beeman reported that efforts to relocate and restore the depot are seeing some progress. The nonprofit Cheney Depot Society now holds title to the land to which the building will be moved, and an engineering study is being prepared on how best to relocate the structure. Two existing buildings will be removed from the site in preparation for the move, and asbestos is being remediated in the office building prior to demolition.

At this time, the proposal is to move the building in one section, following the railroad siding from the present building site to the new location along 1st Street, between I Street and Union Street.

New Business – Application for Certificate of Appropriateness for Window Replacements at David & Bessie Lowe House, 306 F Street

Ms. Beeman explained that the proposal is to replace nine non-original windows; most of these are vinyl windows that were replaced in 2005. At the time of replacement, the Historic Preservation Commission granted a Certificate of Appropriateness to replace the windows with the provision that double-hung windows would be replaced with double-hung windows, and casement windows would be replaced with casement windows, and original leaded glass windows would be retained. In 2005, the Commission allowed the installation of vinyl windows.

The applicant is proposing now to replace the 15-year old vinyl windows with double-paned wood frame windows. Ms. Beeman showed photos of the windows slated for replacement, and said that the contractor for the project was scheduled to be present at the meeting to explain the work that will be done, but he is not here yet.

Chairman Hull stated that she was on the Commission in 2005, but does not recall allowing them to install vinyl windows. Ms. Beeman said that it is possible that the windows replaced in 2005 were not original to the building, either, so there was some leniency in what was allowed. According to the applicant, the 2005 windows were intended to be the tilt-out kind that allowed you to clean the glass on both sides while remaining inside the building. The problem they are having now is that those windows are not sealing correctly.

Discussion followed. Commissioner Pierce made a motion to grant a Certificate of Appropriateness for replacement of the non-original windows, as described. Seconded by Commissioner Wilbanks; the motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Reports:

Commissioner Pierce reported on a recent trip along Highway 14 between Portland and Cheney.

Commissioner Seedorf complimented Chairman Hull on the photo book from her Italian vacation in March.

Commissioner Wilbanks reported that his wife was the Artist in Residence at a month-long retreat at St. Gertrude's Monastery near Cottonwood, Idaho, during the month of April. He added that the Civil War reenactment in Cheney was well attended over Memorial Day weekend.

Commissioner Donley reported on a recent trip to Ohio, where he stayed at a Marriott Hotel which had been the Colonial Hotel, built in 1898. They did a very nice job of preservation in the public areas of the hotel. He commended that the town is very clean, and attributed that partly to the fact that the steel mills are gone. He added that James A. Garfield's family home is in that area.

Commissioner Hull attended the Titanic exposition in Phoenix, and thought it was very well done. She visited Portland for an anniversary trip and saw the Portland underground. The tour was not as visual as the Seattle Underground, but they talked about the activities that took place there. She added that the Chinese Gardens in Portland are a hidden gem.

Staff Reports:

Mr. Lucas reported that he visited Jackson, Wyoming, the Grand Tetons National Park, and Yellowstone National Park recently. He will be visiting Charlotte, North Carolina in October for an Applied Geography conference.

Ms. Beeman reported that we are holding steady at about 185 active building permits right now.

Chairman Hull commented that the Amazon distribution center on the West Plains is nearing completion, and asked if that operation is likely to affect growth in Cheney. Mr. Lucas answered that Cheney's growth used to be tied most closely to EWU enrollment, but that has changed

somewhat in the last 10 years. We are now seeing more residents living in Cheney and going to Spokane to work.

Adjournment: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:09 p.m.

Approved:

Bettye Hull, Chairman

Susan Beeman, Secretary