

CITY OF LANGLEY

Final 1-13-09

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES Public Meeting January 13, 2009

Chair Bob Waterman called the meeting to order at 3:05 pm

ATTENDANCE

Members Present: Bob Waterman, Linda Beeman, Herb Helsel and Jerry Finrow
Members Absent: Marty Fernandez, Fran Abel, Harrison Goodall
Staff/Guests: Larry Cort

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Linda Beeman moved to approve the minutes from the December 9, 2008, meeting. Herb Helsel seconded. The minutes passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Members of the Commission reported on their attempts to contact owners of buildings eligible for registration on the Langley Registry. Linda Beeman said that she had written to the owners of the Voelker house but had not received a reply. Jerry Finrow said that he had not yet spoken to the Breedlove's. Bob Waterman stated that he had not done any follow up contact. Herb Helsel said that he had not seen Willeford's to talk to them about the Clyde Theater.

NEW BUSINESS

Bob Waterman and Larry Cort updated the Commission on recent activities regarding collaboration efforts with the Historical Preservation Commission and the Design Review and Planning Advisory Boards. He said that he, Larry Cort and Fred Evander met with the Mayor, Paul Samuelson this week to discuss the goals of the Historical Preservation Commission. Their discussion included interfacing design guidelines that respect Langley's historical character with the work being done by the Design Review Board.

Larry Cort explained that there was a lot of work going on in the City right now. Larry outlined the tasks that had been given to the Parks & Open Space Committee, Planning Advisory Board, the Design Review Board and the Heritage Tree Committee. Larry said that the common thread being heard was design, scale, massing, character and that the important question throughout was; "is it right for Langley?"

Larry explained the traditional approach to land use priority had been to put 'uses' first and 'design' second. Now 'design' was considered more important and 'use' was secondary.

Larry said that the Planning Advisory Board responsibility was on site layout, design and subdivisions. The Design Review Board's responsibility was site design (visual character), architecture, landscaping and signs. The Historical Preservation Commissions role was to be the filter of both Boards in which character and context helped to develop new design

standards. He provided the Commission with a copy of a part of Coupeville's Design Standards that he wrote, to provide this group with an example of what design standards looked like. Larry finished by saying that the Design Review Board and the Historical Preservation Commission would be working together at some point to come up with cohesive and common sense goals and objectives for design standards for Langley. Larry added that it was at least 6 months before staff would be available to work on new design standards. In the mean time there was homework for the Historical Preservation commission to do beforehand and they need to answer the question, 'what are the features that define Langley's character?'

Bob Waterman said that he would like to learn more about architectural building terms and education on how to recognize historical characteristics of buildings in Langley. Bob added that he would like to have field trips and workshops with some historical experts so that he could begin to understand what it was he was looking at.

Jerry Finrow said that he would put together a reading list to help Commission members.

Larry Cort said he was meeting with the County Commissioners on Friday to discuss methods of allocating the Recording Fee funds. Larry suggested using the money to hire someone with a trained eye to do an inventory of Langley's historical buildings.

Jerry Finrow suggested thinking about hiring a professional consultant like Sheridan to lead a workshop or seminar.

Bob Waterman said that he and Chuck Scurlock had started working on the video of Langley.

Larry Cort said that the month of May is National Historic Preservation month and the Commission might think of things to do during the month to stimulate community interest in historical preservation.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 4:15 pm. The meeting was held in the Langley City Hall. The next meeting of the Historical Preservation Commission is scheduled for Tuesday February 10, 2009 at 5:00 pm.

Mary Jo McArdle recorded the minutes of this meeting.