

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
MINUTES
Public Meeting March 10, 2009

Chair Bob Waterman called the meeting to order at 3:15 pm

ATTENDANCE

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Linda Beeman moved to approve the minutes of February 10, 2009 as written. Herb Helsel seconded. The motion was unanimous.

There was a short recognition of Herb Helsel's work on the Historic Preservation Commission. This was Herb's last meeting as a member and he departed the meeting at that time.

OLD BUSINESS

Bob Waterman said that Doris Matz, owner of the Wylie "Birthing House," had signed the application to Langley's Register of Historic Places. The Wylie Birthing House is now an active application. Bob said that he spoke to Martha Murphy and her husband about the Boynton House and that the owners had decided not to pursue nomination at this time.

Bob said that he was attempting to contact Sandey Brandon about the Fairgrounds pole building built in 1937 as a WPA project. Bob mentioned the Methodist Church as another possibility for registration. Bob also said that he discussed registering the Moonraker. However, the owners were not interested. Linda Beeman said that she would talk to the Willefords about the Clyde Theater.

Bob Waterman said he was interested in creating a nomination kit to give to owners of prospective nominations. Linda Beeman said she felt that would be too much for an initial visit. Bob clarified by stating that he thought the kit would be for the Commission members to use as they saw fit. However, a brochure would be nice to have to give to the property owner(s).

Linda asked Larry Cort if there were property owners in Coupeville who had a positive experience with the Coupeville design Review Board that we could use as references for Langley property owners considering the pros and cons of registering their property. Larry said that he could get three Coupeville property owners names.

Bob Waterman asked the Commission about pursuing CLG Grant money. Linda Beeman said yes, definitely apply for some money. Larry Cort agreed to complete the grant application to perhaps spend the money to help hire a professional consultant to complete and inventory of potential buildings and/or sites.

Bob Waterman asked the Commission about events and activities for Historic Preservation Month in May. Linda Beeman said she would work on the Library exhibit and that she had spoken to the Whidbey Record and received an okay for weekly articles throughout the month. The "Then and Now" article theme might include the Star Store; the Pizzeria; the Cemetery and the changes to First Street. Other suggestions included the Boynton house; the older part of the Methodist Church; the Peters house (Useless Bay Coffee) and the Drake house.

Other May activity suggestions included a history tour with Jerry; a workshop for property owners by the Commission; a talk on preserving historic buildings by Harrison Goodall; a historic building map (Harrison Goodall and Jerry Finrow to work on this); a forum by the Commission inviting property owners to bring old photos and stories of their building to a meeting and share; and a booth at Choochokam to interview people and/or sell T-shirts.

Bob Waterman drew a timeline on the white board and the Commission discussed where ideas fell within that. The timeline indicated a flyer in mid April to the Langley Community Forum and Whidbey Record; Library exhibit and businesses displays ready by the first of May; the workshop, tour and HPC presentation later in the month of May. There was also some discussion about collaboration with the Historical Society.

NEW BUSINESS

Bob Waterman proposed having a group workshop. Bob suggested doing a windshield survey of the town to identify buildings that might be candidates for registration. Bob said the second stage of the workshop, would be to meet and with the help of aerial photographs and a map of the City, begin to define and map historic neighborhoods in town. Linda Beeman said that if we get a grant to do the Inventory the Commission might be able to coordinate a windshield survey with the consultant hired to do the Inventory. Several members thought that was a great idea.

Bob Waterman asked Harrison Goodall to work on developing a workshop on assessing the visual character of individual sites.

Bob Waterman said the Town of Snohomish was holding a Historic Preservation and Cultural Tourism Symposium on May 28 and 29th. Bob said David Dilgard from Everett Historical Society was the keynote speaker. He asked if anyone was interested in attending. The deadline is May 22nd. Several members voiced interest in attending.

Bob said the History Channel was advertising applications for projects. He said he thought there was an opportunity for a Historical Preservation Commission/South Whidbey High School collaboration on a project. Additional future project ideas to use funding on were Kiosks and brochures.

ADJOURN

Jerry Finrow moved to adjourn. Linda Beeman seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 4:40 pm. The meeting was held in the Langley City Hall. The next meeting of the Historical Preservation Commission is scheduled for Tuesday April 14, 2009 at 3:00 pm. Mary Jo McArdle recorded the minutes of this meeting.