

CITY OF LANGLEY

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES

Public Meeting April 14, 2009

Chair Bob Waterman called the meeting to order at 3:04 pm

ATTENDANCE

Members Present: Bob Waterman, Linda Beeman, Jerry Finrow, Marty Fernandez, Fran Abel and Harrison Goodall
Members Absent: Cathy Blackburn
Staff/Guests: Doris Matz

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

There was one change to 3-10-09 minutes, to add a 'z' to Doris Matz name. Jerry Finrow moved to approve the minutes of the March 10, 2009 meeting as amended. Linda Beeman seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The Commission discussed the nomination of the Wylie 'Hospital/Birthing House' for placement on the Langley Register of Historic Places. Bob asked if any of the Commission members had a conflict of interest in the nomination. There were none. The Commission then asked Doris Matz owner of the Wylie House, questions about the house and its history. Doris Matz answered the Commissions questions and provided additional information about the house as well as several photos. Bob Waterman asked the Commission if the Wylie House qualified for registration. Jerry Finrow said that the house met two criteria. The house met Langley's nomination criteria number one (1); "It is associated with events that have a significant contribution to the broad patterns of national, state or local history" (it was one of the few the only hospital "hospitals" or "birthing houses" on the south end of the island prior to establishment of the hospital in Coupeville), and it also met criteria five (5); "It is associated with the lives of persons significant in national, state or local history" (Mrs Wylie was on the all woman City Council).

Bob raised the question of whether information about a nominated property could be added as an addendum following placement on the register. The consensus was that it was acceptable to do so.

The Commission discussed the building and the changes to the building over the years. Jerry Finrow stated that it was the changes to the exterior of the building that the Commission was concerned about rather than the changes that had occurred inside the building, adding that Commission would be looking at elements such as the one over one windows, the columns, the knee bracing and the exterior sheathing. Harrison Goodall added that the Commission still had some work to do on defining the character of nominated buildings that they wanted preserved.

Jerry Finrow moved to accept the nomination of the Wylie Hospital/Birthing House to the Langley Register of Historical Places. Linda Beeman seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

The Commission reported on potential nominations of additional buildings to the Langley Register of Historical Places. Fran Abel said that she had talked to Martha Murphy owner of the Boynton House, and that they said that they were not ready to nominate the house at this time. Jerry Finrow said that he had not been successful in contacting Ben Breedlove about their Anthes house. Bob Waterman stated that he and Linda Beeman had talked to Mary Vergin from the Methodist Church on Anthes about nominating the original sanctuary for the Register. Bob sent a letter and information about the Commission to the church trustees, but hadn't heard back from them yet. Bob Waterman said that he had not heard back from the owners of the Albert Melsen house on 4th St.

Bob Waterman said that Paul Samuelson was writing a letter to the County Commissioners regarding Langley's Grant application. However, he didn't know what the status was of that letter. Bob added that Langley's grant application as a Certified Local Government had met the state's deadline.

The Commission discussed Historical Preservation Month (May) activities. Harrison Goodall presented a draft brochure for the Langley Historical Tour that he and Jerry Finrow would be leading. Everyone thought the brochure was done very well. Bob Waterman suggested making enough colored copies for the May tour and use what they learned from that activity to make changes prior to mass production of the document. Jerry Finrow asked about a date for the tour for advertisement of the tour. He said that he was available on either May 9th or May 23rd.

Linda Beeman stated she will have four "then and now" displays placed in the library during May. Bob informed the Commission about plans to hold a program on the Camfferman art colony and the art of Margaret and Peter Camfferman at 7:00pm, May 21. This event will be held in the old Christian Science Church building next to City Hall. It will be co-sponsored by Langley's Historic Preservation Commission, the South Whidbey Historical Society, and the Sno-Isle Library System.

~~Fran Able and Marty Fernandez volunteered to work with Bob in creating historical displays to be placed in the windows of several commercial buildings during May. Bob, I need your assistance here. Due to covering the front reception desk and covering the minutes for this meeting I didn't capture what was said about the library display or the storefront window display status. I also didn't get anything on the Camfferman art colony presentation or the status of articles for the Record. Can you fill in that information?~~

NEW BUSINESS

Bob said that David Gignac (~~I'm not sure about the spelling~~) had expressed interest in helping to design and manufacture ~~of the house~~ plaques for sites on the register. The Commission discussed the need to decide on a size and theme for the plaques, and who would be paying the cost of the plaques, before selecting a manufacturer.

The Commission discussed the need to finalize the design standards that Harrison Goodall has been working on. A question was raised by Bob Waterman regarding how the Historical Preservation Commission and the Design Review Board would work together and how each set of design standards from the two groups, would be used to determine outcome of applications brought before them. Bob Waterman said he would still like to do a workshop on wheels; ~~to do~~ i.e., drive around town to see what is out there. He suggested that this activity might help with the design standards.

The Commission discussed what topics needed brochure packets developed. They discussed packets for public information and potential nominations, and packets for Commission members to use. The discussion included the need for brochures that were friendly and generic, and included something that would stimulate interest in historic preservation. Topics included information on the tax valuation incentive, the economic benefits to Langley's character, information on properties currently on Langley's Register as well as positive information on other town's historic preservation efforts and possible contacts.

ADJOURN

Marty Fernandez moved to adjourn the meeting. Jerry Finrow seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 pm. The meeting was held in the Langley City Hall. The next meeting of the Historical Preservation Commission is scheduled for Tuesday May 12, 2009 at 3:00 pm. Mary Jo McArdle recorded the minutes of this meeting.