

CITY OF LANGLEY

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES

Public Meeting May 12, 2009

final 6-9-2009

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

Welcome and Introduction of new member Cathy Blackburn. Members of the HPC gave Cathy a brief background of themselves.

ATTENDANCE

Members Present: Bob Waterman, Linda Beeman, Jerry Finrow, Marty Fernandez, Fran Abel, Cathy Blackburn and Harrison Goodall

Staff Present: Larry Cort

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Linda Beeman moved to approve the April 14, 2009 meeting minutes. Marty Fernandez seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Bob Waterman said that possible nominations to Langley's Historic Registry were going slowly.

Harrison Goodall suggested the Pole building at the Island County Fairground might be a good building to pursue. Bob Waterman said that he'd called Sandy Brandon but hadn't gotten a return call. Larry Cort said that Betty Kemp, the Director of General Services at Island County would be the best person to contact since Island County owns the building. Jerry Finrow volunteered to follow up on this.

Cathy Blackburn said that she would follow up on the nomination of Langley Middle School.

Linda Beeman said that she'd talked to the Willefords and they told her that they were not interested in registration because they did not want to encumber their son and heir to the Clyde Theater.

The Commission discussed the issue of reluctance and shared ideas to address the concerns of potential registrants. The commission discussed ideas on how to get the word out and reduce the fear of potential registrants.

Larry Cort provided an update on Langley's Grant application. Larry said that he and Bob Waterman were going to Olympia to push approval of Langley's application. Larry added that the County money was still being discussed with Island County Commissioners.

Bob Waterman asked if anyone knew the status of the Snohomish Symposium scheduled for May 28, 29 and 30th. Larry Cort said that he would check on it to see if it is still going to happen. Linda Beeman said that she would like to attend.

Bob Waterman initiated a discussion on Historic Preservation Month activities. He said that Jerry Finrow and Harrison Goodall had done a first run of the walking tour. Jerry said that it went well and added that they needed to collect additional information before the next tour on May 23rd. Jerry said that they had good interaction with the people who participated.

Jerry Finrow said that he was concerned about the underside of the buildings on 1st Street, especially Bernadette's spaces that had recently been remodeled including the additional supports to the underside of her spaces. Jerry added that a significant part of Langley's history would be lost if that building were to slide down the bank.

Linda Beeman gave an update on the library display. Commission members said the display looked great.

Marty Fernandez and Fran Abel gave an update on the storefront window displays. Displays were up at the Star Store, Virginias, Island Design and Whidbey Antiques. Marty and Fran said Flat Rock did a great job with their plotter.

Bob Waterman gave an update on the Camfferman art presentation. Bob said the presentation was moving along and would be very interesting. Bob will present a discussion of the compound and the role the people there played in Langley's history, and David Martin will present a discussion of the Camfferman's art. Bob said that he and Shelia McCue, Librarian, had visited Maureen Duryee who had a lot of information on the Camfferman art colony. Bob added that he thought there should be a poster displayed at the presentation to show what was on the Langley Registry and to make a pitch for the Historical Society and the Historical Preservation Commission.

Linda Beeman said that the articles were proceeding on schedule and that one article would appear in each Wednesday edition of the South Whidbey Record.

NEW BUSINESS

Harrison Goodall handed out a draft of the Historic Preservation Handbook for the Commission members to use. Harrison went over the document contents with the Commission. Harrison said that the document had 'This is how we do things' kind of information. Harrison said that definitions would be good to have for 'buzz words' like reconstruction, restoration, repair, etc. He added that he wanted to create some graphics to go with the terms. Harrison also said that definitions were needed for architectural terms.

Harrison handed out a 2 page "Reconnaissance Survey" to the Commission and shared his ideas. Harrison asked Commission member's questions. Larry Cort asked, "How was this different than having a professional inventory done?" Harrison Goodall responded by saying that he felt that it was important for the Commissioner to get out into the community and become familiar with the neighborhoods and their character. Bob Waterman added that taking the reconnaissance survey would help just to know what Langley had and that getting the stories behind the buildings was as important as the buildings. Bob added that a professional would just be looking at the building exterior. Harrison Goodall added that the survey was a tool to help the Commission become more aware of and engaged in what inventory Langley had.

Jerry Finrow asked when the survey would take place. It was discussed and the Commission decided to plan the survey for June 9th, the day of the regular Historical Preservation Commission meeting.

Harrison Goodall said the Commission needed to begin the discussion of how the Historical Preservation and the Design Review Board meld their reviews and who had the final authority. Harrison said that the Commission needed to develop its own character guidelines and be able to talk with the Design Review Board. Harrison said that visual character was important and that the Commission needed to be able to identify the visual character that is definable and recognizable. Harrison used himself as an example asking the Commission if he would still be Harrison if he shaved off his beard; asking if his beard was a defining visual feature of who he was.

Jerry Finrow said that as the Commission accepted a building on to the Register, they needed to describe what features of the building made it historic. Jerry added that that defining feature(s) needed to be clearly specified on the registration acceptance. Jerry also added that interiors could be a part of the historic specificity. He gave the example of the theater interior where Lincoln was shot. Bob suggested that it would be good to include a space on the form for recording key events and people associated with a site.

ADJOURN

Jerry Finrow moved to adjourn the meeting. Marty Fernandez seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 5:07 pm. The meeting was held in the Langley City Hall.

The next meeting of the Historical Preservation Commission is scheduled for Tuesday June 9, 2009 at 1:00 pm. The Reconnaissance Survey Tour will start from City Hall.

Mary Jo McArdle recorded the minutes of this meeting.