

**CITY OF LANGLEY
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
Langley City Hall
November 10th, 2009**

Chair Bob Waterman called the meeting to order at 3:06 pm

ATTENDANCE

Members Present: Linda Beeman, Harrison Goodall, Cathy Blackburn, Fran Abel and Bob Waterman and Marty Fernandez
Members Absent: Jerry Finrow
Staff Present: Larry Cort
Citizens Present: Mr. & Mrs. Tully, Vicki Welfare, Pam Owens

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Linda Beeman moved to approve the October 13, 2009 meeting minutes as written. Cathy Blackburn seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Hearing - Nomination of the original Langley Library to Langley Register of Historic Places. Bob Waterman asked if there were any Commission members that had a potential appearance of fairness concern such that they would need to recuse themselves from voting on the nomination. Commissioners Waterman and Beeman both noted that they were members of the Langley Library Board but that felt they could act impartially on this nomination.

The Commission discussed the nomination of the original Langley Library to the Langley Register of Historic Places. Bob Waterman presented slides of the library site and gave a history of the site and building over time. The slide show included an analysis of the historical features of the building that should be retained and maintained over time. The Commission said the historical part of the library had a connection to the early Langley community including the involvement of Helen Coe who promoted a Langley library and Joseph Anthes who donated the land for the library. The Commission noted the original building's historical features had been maintained and that the library was one of the first public buildings in Langley. One audience member noted that the library additions had been done in a way that complimented the original building. Linda Beeman noted that as a public building the library wouldn't qualify for the tax breaks that a privately owned property would be eligible for. Bob Waterman asked for a motion to accept the original Langley Library to the Langley Register of Historic Places. Harrison move to accept the nomination. Fran Abel seconded. The vote was unanimous.

Fran Abel acknowledged Harrison's photographs identifying the specific historical character features of the building. Fran said this was a very good way to clearly show what the Historical Preservation Commission identified as historical features to be retained and maintained through time. Fran added that the photos would be important to future Historical Preservation Commission members.

Bob Waterman asked the current librarian if she had a list of all the previous librarians. She said that there haven't been many and said she would get a list to Bob.

OLD BUSINESS

- A. Potential register nominations – Cathy Blackburn said that she had spoken to David Schmidt, the owner of the house at 834 Third Street. Cathy said the owners expressed interest and volunteered to review the frequently asked questions brochure the Commission was putting together.

Linda Beeman said that she would again contact the owners of the Voelker house on Third Street to see what their interest was at this time.

Bob Waterman said that he was continuing conversations with Superintendent Fred McCarthy about the Langley Middle School and the specialist who would be doing the inventory of Langley's historic buildings.

- B. Consultant Hire Update – Larry Cort updated the Commission on the hiring of the consultant. Larry said that Island County had been deliberate in approving the paperwork to release the \$6,000.00 to the City and that he was reluctant to hire the consultant until the City had the money. Larry said that he'd received four statements of qualifications and said the next step was to pick two or three of the four to contact with requests to submit a formal bid. Linda Beeman and Fran Abel volunteered to help with the selection.
- C. FAQ's (Frequently Asked Questions) – Bob Waterman provided a list of questions that he'd gathered to develop a brochure of frequently asked questions that could be given to prospective nominations. The Commission discussed section called "draft 5" of Bob's list. This section discussed painting, landscaping, permit requirements normal maintenance, etc.

Bob asked Larry Cort if there should be a fee for a Certificate of Appropriateness. Larry said if there was a fee, it should be nominal and should not be tied to the building permit fee because those fees were governed by codes outside of the City of Langley.

Linda Beeman asked if the Title to a property identified it as a registered building. Larry said the City did not have a rule for that information to be shown on the Title but that it could be incorporated so that buyers and realtors would know if a building and/or site were on the Langley Register of Historic Places.

Cathy Blackburn asked what happened if someone did something to a registered building that voided the historical features and if there was a de-register process. Linda Beeman said that there was a provision to de-register a building or site.

Bob Waterman asked the Commission to make edits to the FAQ list and be ready to discuss their suggestions at the next meeting.

- D. Printing Costs – Cathy Blackburn said she had shrunk Harrison's walking tour brochure and e-mailed it to Larry Cort so that it could be put onto the City's Web site. Cathy said that she was waiting for one bid on printing costs and would get back to the Commission on printing costs as soon as she had complete information. Cathy asked Larry if the Commission had any right to any general fund money. Larry said that the general fund is very tight this year but that consideration could be given to tapping 2% funds in the future. Cathy said she would talk to the Chamber to see if any money might be available from tourism funds.
- E. Plaques – The Commission discussed several questions about plaques. They discussed what information should be on the plaque; where should the plaque go on a building and was the plaque for the owner or the general public. Marty Fernandez expressed concerns about the existing signage overload in the town. Bob Waterman asked the Commission to think about these questions and added several more. Bob asked the Commission to also consider whether the plaque was voluntary; who would pay for the plaque; what should be the size of the plaque be; what should the plaque be made of; who decided what the plaque said and should the plaque contain a picture of the building.

Bob asked the Commission to be ready to finalize the FAQ's brochure and have answers to the plaque questions at their next meeting.

- F. Marty Fernandez asked if anyone knew the status of the new front door for City Hall. Larry said that he didn't have any new information about it.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Storage of Historical Preservation Commission Materials – Mary Jo McArdle discussed the storage options available in the library basement. Mary Jo said that the basement had a new concrete floor and had a number of filing cabinets available. Mary Jo said that the basement was not heated and that it might not be the best place to store material that was of archival value. Mary Jo said that the Washington State Archives Depository in Bellingham might be another storage option. Mary Jo also discussed the storage and retrieval challenges with digital information.

ADJOURN

Linda Beeman moved to adjourn the meeting. Marty Fernandez seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 8th at 3:00pm.