

MINUTES - LANGLEY HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

April 14, 2011

Langley City Hall

Present: Marty Fernandez Bob Waterman Aaron Coates, Brena Gustafson and David Rogan-Levine.

Absent (excused): Niki Barr, Linda Beeman

Guest: Jeff Arango (Langley Community Planner).

Chair Bob Waterman called the meeting to order at 3:00pm.

Bob introduced Langley's new community planner, Jeff Arango, to the Commission.

He asked if there were corrections to the March 8, 2011 minutes. **There being none, Brena made a motion to accept the minutes as corrected. Marty seconded the motion and the minutes were unanimously adopted.**

OLD BUSINESS.

Plaques. Marty Fernandez shared possible text for a plaque to be placed on the Original Langley Library. Bob noted that the commission has been dealing with the topic of plaques for some time, and we need to move ahead with decisions regarding material, sources and text. He suggested that we make this a top priority for the next meeting.

Conservation District/Main Street. Bob reported that he will be giving a talk on the history of Langley's First Street, May 17 at 7:00pm, at the Music for the Eyes store, 314 First Street, Langley. It will be jointly sponsored by the HPC, Langley Main Street Program, and potentially the South Whidbey Historical Society.

Linda will be placing an article regarding an historic building in the South Whidbey Record each week during May. Structures include: Roderick McLeod house (Music for the Eyes), Clyde Theatre, Langley Middle School, and the Jesse Tapp house.

Bob reported that Niki plans to conduct a survey of what people would like to learn about the Langley's history. He and Niki discussed the possibility of setting up a table by the Star Store and distribute brochures and information about the HPC along with conducting the survey.

Bob reported he had discussions with Eric Levine of the Main Street board regarding placing photos in downtown buildings. Bob agreed to work in conjunction with him, and will call on members of the HPC for help if/when needed.

Bob reported that the board of the SWHS agreed to grant the HPC \$100 from donations made at his December 8, 2010 "All Women Administration" talk. Bob will ask the

SWHS treasurer to send a check in that amount to the City earmarked for use by the HPC.

Brena said she is planning to develop an evening event focusing on Langley in the 1970s. Bob agreed to meet with her to discuss possibilities.

Bob reported that the work of the City Council's ad hoc committee to explore options for sustaining downtown Langley has met several times, and is nearing completion of their work. They plan to present their findings to the city council in May.

An e-mail from an individual who shared her thoughts after driving through downtown prompted a lively and constructive discussion of the advisability of preserving Langley's character and the role of the HPC in his process.

History Walk/Electronic Media. Marty reported he had not contacted anyone regarding creating an electronic map for a history "walk." David reported he had attempted to reach George Henny of Whidbey Telecom regarding a short term voice mail account, but he has not returned his call. It may be too late to create this project for this May, but suggested that we should continue to explore the possibility of providing short recorded messages to people who call a number posted in/on historic structures.

Bob shared a "Z-fold out" which might serve as a "low tech" approach to a history walk. This is a small, folded paper product that could be placed easily in a pocket or purse. Several sizes are available. He will attempt to learn more about this possibility.

Special Tax Valuation. Aaron shared material from the State's Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation website regarding the special property tax valuation program. Bob recounted that the HPC had used that and similar information from other cities in writing the brief insert for our FAQ brochure. He also noted that Megan Duvall from the State had made a presentation to the HPC on this subject some time ago. Bob suggested that Aaron contact Megan to determine if there have been any changes in the program. Based on her response, we should finalize copy to be linked to the HPC site on the City website.

NEW BUSINESS.

Potential Historic Site Nominees. Bob noted that an e-mail from the owner of the Adam Voelker house to Linda indicated that she was planning additions to the house and did not want to consider nominating it for the register at this time. He also asked if members would take responsibility for preparing a nomination form and/or work with the owner to bring a nomination to the HPC. Niki volunteered to contact Ben Breedlove. Brena will transfer Mimi Sheridan's information on the Pole Building to our nomination form and work with the Fair Board and County to see about placing that building on the register.

This prompted a discussion of the fact that new members need to be brought up to date with the Commission's role, responsibilities and how best to provide information to potential nominees. This has been an agenda item for several months, but has not happened since a full compliment of members has not been present. **It was decided that we would schedule a separate special meeting to address these issues.**

Certificate of Appropriateness. The need for an application form for requesting a Certificate of Appropriateness was discussed. Brena volunteered to provide a draft for consideration at the next meeting. This is necessary should the HPC receive a request to significantly alter a site on the register.

Other New Business. Bob distributed a list of contractors, building suppliers, designer, etc. from Bainbridge Island who were willing to give a discount on their services or material for historic preservation projects. He suggested that Langley might do something similar.

There being no further business, Brena made a motion that we adjourn the meeting. David seconded the motion, and members unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 4:40pm.

Respectfully submitted by Bob Waterman

The next scheduled meeting of LHPC will take place on Tuesday, May 10, 2011.