

**CITY OF LANGLEY
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
Langley City Hall
September 8th, 2009**

final: 10-13-09

Vice Chair Linda Beeman called the meeting to order at 3:05 pm

ATTENDANCE

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Harrison Goodall moved to approve the August 11th, 2009 meeting minutes. Linda Beeman seconded the motion. **There being no further discussion, the motion passed unanimously.**

OLD BUSINESS

A. Potential register nominations.

Harrison Goodall passed around clarifications to the nomination for the original section of the Langley Library to fellow board members. His one-page addition showed the various architectural details of the building that merit its inclusion on the Register and that were present in a 1953 photograph of the building. He also has proposed new additions to the nomination form itself that clarify why Commission members believe a particular structure is deserving of inclusion on the Register. These include a site's GPS location, criteria for its evaluation taken from the Secretary of the Interior's guidelines, a description of its architecturally-defining features, and a list of aspects of its integrity.

Harrison also distributed a small booklet describing a condition survey he had conducted of the Library building.

Linda Beeman said she had edited Bob Waterman's text from the Library nomination form for clarity and had asked Jerry Finrow to review it for architectural accuracy. He did that, and Linda said she would email that edit to all board members later today.

Cathy Blackburn reported on our visit to the Langley Middle School and the tour conducted by Superintendent Fred McCarthy. She said that Fred described the school district's plans to move middle school students to the current high school campus in 2-3 years time, and the potential uses they are considering for the campus. He said they do not want to sell it to a developer, and hope to preserve it for more mixed-use community-related purposes. He encouraged Commission members to begin planning for including parts of the campus for listing on the Historic Register.

Cathy mentioned the "time capsule" like qualities of the home economics classroom, the science lab, the art studio and the shop. Larry added that some of the outdoor facilities, such as Memorial Field, might also be considered for historic designation. Jerry felt we should begin at once to identify the buildings that would be suitable for historic listing, as this will be an involved project.

Harrison said he thought this was a great opportunity that "...comes along once a century." Jerry asked who the owner of the property was, and Larry replied that it was the school district. Larry also said that a Transition Committee would begin working on the district's behalf to identify potential uses for the campus.

Jerry felt that, because the property is owned by the school district, we might encounter problems that would limit our options.

Finally, Jerry reported that Ben Breedlove is very interested in having his home listed on the Langley Register, but wishes to know the limitations and benefits of such a listing prior to proceeding. He is particularly concerned about a tree on the corner near his property which is now located in a City right-of-way.

NEW BUSINESS

City Hall Doorway Remodel. Linda asked board members if they had reviewed the proposed changes to the entry at City Hall, and if we could formalize our decision about whether to approve them. Jerry Finrow made a motion to accept the proposed changes. Linda Beeman seconded the motion and asked if there were any discussion.

Harrison Goodall wondered whether we should be following the procedures outlined in our guidelines for historic alterations to Register properties. Jerry Finrow thought the owner of the property should propose any alterations, then move the process forward by providing materials documenting those changes and how they were consistent with the historic design of the building. **After further discussion, Linda Beeman called for a vote. Linda Beeman, Cathy Blackburn, Jerry Finrow and Marty Fernandez voted in favor of the proposed changes to the City Hall doorway. Harrison Goodall abstained. Linda declared that the motion had carried.**

Meeting with Island County Commissioners. Linda reported that the meeting of the Island County Commissioners she had attended with Larry Cort had gone swimmingly, thanks largely to Larry's efforts. The Commissioners assured them that our request for \$6,000 in matching funds for our state grant would be approved later this month.

A later meeting with Sandy Brandon of the Island County Fair Board and County Commissioner Helen Price Johnson had gone equally well. Sandy assured Linda, Larry and Helen that the Fair Board would be delighted to have the pole building and the McLeod Cabin considered for the Langley Historic Register. Sandy believes the Cabin belongs, in fact, to the South Whidbey Historical Society and is simply located on the Fair grounds.

Jerry Finrow asked which county official was responsible for overseeing the Fairground buildings. Larry said that was Betty Kemp.

Other. Harrison described in greater detail the changes he is proposing to the Register nomination form. He also asked board members to consider where our records and research materials should be stored. He felt this would become an increasing problem as we assemble more and more information about individual sites and background material to aid us in our deliberations.

Cathy Blackburn brought up the article in *The Whidbey Examiner* describing an owner's efforts to demolish the historic Joseph Libbey House he had purchased in 2008.¹ Larry Cort and Jerry Finrow offered further details about that controversy and Coupeville's efforts to preserve the building.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, Linda adjourned the meeting at 3:35 p.m.

¹ Burnett, Justin. "Historic Home to be Evaluated." Coupeville: *The Whidbey Examiner*, September 2, 2009, page 1.