

**MINUTES
CITY OF LANGLEY
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
August 11, 2009**

Chair Bob Waterman called the meeting to order at 3:02 pm

ATTENDANCE

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Marty Fernandez moved to approve the July 14, 2009 meeting minutes. Harrison Goodall seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Potential register nominations

Bob Waterman said the Rosenmans decided that they were not ready to nominate the Albert Melsen house to the Langley Historical Registry. Bob added that the Rosenmans expressed concerns about future plans to remodel the entry and also about impacts to a possible resale.

Bob Waterman said he'd contacted Mark Wahl about the residence he owns at 416 4th Street. Bob said Mark was interested in nominating the home and that he (Bob) was moving forward with the nomination form.

Bob Waterman said Jerry Finrow had spoken to Ben Breedlove about his Anthes home. Jerry said Ben expressed interest and asked for the nomination form to be sent to him.

Bob said that Jerry had contacted Betty Kemp about the Fair buildings adding that Betty would do some follow up research and then get back to Jerry.

Bob Waterman said that he had started the nomination process for the old part of the library using Harrison's revised nomination form. Bob gave Commission members copies of the information he'd gathered on the history of the building. Bob said he wanted to partner with the library staff and the Friends of the Library before finalizing the nomination. The Commission discussed the fireplace as a possible "internal" feature that was worth identifying as a distinguishing historical feature of the building. There was also some talk about the garden as a potential distinguishing feature. Larry Cort said that additional research was needed in order to justify calling the garden a character-defining feature. Bob Waterman asked Harrison Goodall if he could assist him in completing part of the nomination form regarding the library foundation, integrity and setting of the building while his is away so that hopefully the library nomination could be ready for the City Council in October.

Bob Waterman said he had met with the Methodist Church representatives and they expressed concerns about possible impacts to their plans to enlarge the fellowship hall and the installation of solar panels on the

roof. The church representative said they would get back to the Commission after talking to other church leaders.

Bob Waterman said he and Paul Samuelson had met separately with Fred McCarthy regarding the possibility of nominating Langley Middle School. Fred McCarthy offered to take the Commission on a tour of the school on Monday August 19th at 9:00 am. Bob Waterman asked for a volunteer to take the lead on the Langley Middle School nomination. Larry Cort suggested the Commission could wait and use the professional consultant to do the analysis and complete the nomination form when he/her begins their work sometime in November. The Commission agreed that was a great idea. Bob said that he would like to begin collecting photographs and stories about the school between now and when the consultant work begins. Harrison asked if there was a leadership role emerging in the discussions about possible uses for the Langley Middle School. Other than the transition team established to work on the children aspect no one had any information on the buildings.

B. Other

Bob Waterman gave Commission members a copy of a portion of the Los Angeles, California nomination packet. He said the LA form was very clear, concise and easy for applicants to complete. Bob suggested Langley's form might want to use a similar style.

Bob Waterman introduced a couple of ideas to get information about the buildings on the historic registry: 1. Place a sidewalk plaque in front of the building telling people passing by what was there and, 2. Provide a link to registered buildings on the City web site. Larry Cort said that a list of registered buildings with a link to a pdf file was a possibility. Cathy Blackburn volunteered to work on this.

Harrison Goodall asked the Commission for direction on the walking tour pamphlet. Cathy Blackburn suggested changing the size to a three-fold panel (envelope size) to better accommodate information slots on the WA. State Ferries and at the visitors information center. The Commission re-visited printing costs.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Top 10 sites

The Commission talked about the places they thought to be the most important to pursue registration. The places that were identified were the Star Store (part of), the pole building and the McLeod cabin at the Island County Fairgrounds, the Doghouse, the Voelker house, the Clyde Theatre and the Fossek Farm (as open space and farm cluster).

The Commission discussed challenges for historic preservation nominations and the green building movement.

Harrison Goodall asked if the Commission could create a frequently asked questions (FAQ) information sheet that provided definitions and information on the positive/beneficial aspects of registration and put that information on the web site as well. The Commission agreed that more work was needed to prepare information on the facts about what can and cannot be done to a building (or place) that was placed on the Langley registry. The Commission also re-visited the need for a brochure that told people who the Historical Preservation Commission was and provided a vision statement. The Commission discussed the importance of an information sheet that spoke to benefits of registration from an economic perspective that included tax valuation and other financial rewards.

In Summary, the Commission agreed to meet at the Langley Middle School on Monday, August 17th at 9:00am for a tour with Fred McCarthy; to continue their work on obtaining new nominations; Harrison would work on

re-formatting the walking tour brochure; Bob with Harrison's help, would complete of the library nomination; Cathy Blackburn and Marty Fernandez volunteered to work on gathering historical information about the middle school for the consultant; and Cathy volunteered to work with the City on the website. The Commission also agreed that everyone take some time to work on a content draft, a FAQ list, and a property value tax/economic benefit brochure. Fran Abel agreed to research energy conservation retrofit options for buildings that are on the historic registry.

ADJOURN

Harrison Goodall moved to adjourn the meeting. Fran Abel seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 5:07 pm. The meeting was held in the Langley City Hall. Mary Jo McArdle recorded the minutes of this meeting.