

CITY OF LANGLEY
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
MINUTES
April 10, 2008

The meeting was called to order at 9:05 am by Councilmember Bob Waterman.

Members present: Linda Beeman, Jerry Finrow, Harrison Goodall, Fran Abel, Herb Helsel, Martin Fernandez (arrived at 9:40)

Members absent: None

Staff/Guests present: Paul Samuelson, Mayor; Larry Cort, Director of Community Planning

Minutes: This was the inaugural meeting of the Historic Preservation Commission.

INTRODUCTIONS

Each member of the Commission introduced themselves and stated why they had sought to be a member. Mayor Paul Samuelson welcomed the group and thanked them for their willingness to serve. He emphasized the importance of preserving community character and encouraged the Commission to have fun with its new role.

ELECTION OF CHAIR

Commissioner Finrow nominated Bob Waterman as Chair of the Commission. There being no further nominations, Commissioner Waterman was acclaimed as Chair.

MEETING TIME AND RULES

The Commission discussed possible meeting times and days, and the desirability of meeting more often in the beginning to get off to a running start. It was agreed that regular meeting of the Commission would be held at 9:30 am on Thursday mornings with the next meeting set for April 17, 2008. The Board also agreed to conduct meetings in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order with decisions subject to a simple majority. Staff reviewed the basics of the Open Public Meetings Act and Appearance of Fairness doctrine with the Commission.

SCOPE OF WORK

The Commission moved its meeting to the offices of SLR to engage in a mind mapping exercise as a means of helping to define the scope and priorities of the Commission. The following represents the results of that exercise.

“TOP TIER” ITEMS (NOTE: key initial elements are underlined>)

I. Become a Certified Local Government (CLG)

- A. Tie into State network.
- B. More local control
- C. Access to money.
- D. Application
 1. Two copies of Historic Preservation Ordinance

2. Copy of other bylaws related to Historic Preservation.
3. Commission members information.
4. Map
- 5 Letter from Mayor
6. Staff person information

II. Define Vision, Goals and Process

- A. What do we preserve?
 1. Corridors
 2. Vignettes
 3. Landscape.
 4. Buildings
 5. “Character” (“Look and Feel”)
- B. Define a 6-month – 1-year mission
 1. A voice in the community conversations about the future.
 2. Expand concept of people’s connections to history.
- C. Define key messages.
- D. Educate the commission
 1. Develop a shared understanding and context.
- E. How will we work as a commission?
 1. Ethic of listening and communicating.
 2. Small chunks (“not too big to chew”).
 3. Humility.
 4. Who do we go to?
 5. Who does what?

III. Maintain Register of Historic Sites

- A. Define criteria for placement on/removal from the register.

IV. Education

- A. Building plaques
- B. Connect with schools
- C. Lecture series.
- D. Kiosk (example, at wharf).
 1. On-line?
 2. Chamber of Commerce?
 3. Separate location?
- E. Press
 1. Monthly column
 2. Highlight specific buildings, people, etc.
- F. Events
 1. Community welcome
 2. Walking tours (self-guided and/or lead).
- G. Materials
 1. Intro. pamphlet (Simple overview).
 2. Audience targeted?

H. Groups to educate

1. Ourselves
2. Public.
3. City Administration.

I. Specific strategies needed.

V. Build “preservation ethic”

- A. Outcome of combined, targeted efforts.
 - B. Becomes support over time.
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“SECOND TIER” ITEMS

VI. Create Preservation Manual

- A. Guidelines.
- B. Neighborhoods.

VII. Research

- A. Walking tour of Langley.
- B. Explore options other than CLG
 1. Historic Conservation District?
 2. Neighborhoods?
 3. Sub areas
- C. Interviews
- D. Strategies for businesses.
 1. Benefits of preservation?
 2. Data
 3. Current status (e.g., bluff stability, maintenance, etc.).
- E. Other cities'/communities' experiences with historic preservation.

VIII. Preserve critical historic structures.

- A. Middle School.
- B. Marina.
- C. Cemetery.
- D. Downtown.
- E. “East side” (i.e., Edgecliff, Decker, Furman)
- F. “Upper Langley” (i.e., Living Green).
- G. What is the minimum needed to be preserved?

XI. Coordination, Collaboration, Partnerships

- A. South Whidbey Historical Society.
- B. History teachers.
- C. Other groups with aligned interests (e.g., marina).
- D. City committees/commissions:
 1. Parks and Open Space Commission.
 2. Planning Advisory Board (PAB)
 3. Design Review Board (DRB)
- E. Economic development.

1. Mayor's economic advisory group.
 2. Main Streets program/ideas
- F. B&B's/Inns
G. Business community (COC)
H. County.
I. National/State registry

X. Best foot forward (Community connections)

- A. Tax implications.
 - B. Grants/funding.
 - C. Be a resource to property owners.
 - D. Engaging owners and business people.
 1. Bring people into our meetings.
 2. Have early meetings with the DRB, business owners, PAB.
 - E. Get volunteers involved.
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SUGGESTED ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING:

1. **Bob** will take lead in moving the CLG application process forward.
2. Everyone bring ideas regarding our vision, defining the "character/Look and feel" of Langley.
3. Plan schedule of first meetings with community groups.
4. Decide where to find information on historic preservation, local history. (**Harrison will provide some key resources to start with**).

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 am.