

**CITY OF LANGLEY**  
**HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION**  
**MINUTES**  
**April 17, 2008**

The meeting was called to order at 9:32 am by Chair Bob Waterman.

**Members present:** Bob Waterman, Linda Beeman, Harrison Goodall, Fran Abel, Martin Fernandez

**Members absent:** Jerry Finrow, Herb Helsel

**Staff/Guests present:** Larry Cort, Director of Community Planning

**Minutes:** Beeman moved, seconded by Abel, to approve the minutes of April 10, 2008 as written. Motion passed unanimously.

**CERTIFIED LOCAL GOVERNMENT (CLG) PROGRAM**

Chair Waterman distributed materials describing the Certified Local Government (CLG) program and the components necessary to acquire status through the State of Washington. He will bring a packet of materials to the next meeting for Commission review prior to considering a recommendation to the City Council to apply for CLG status. Staff will contact Megan Duvall, the Certified Local Government coordinator for the Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, and let her know that the request will be forthcoming.

**DEFINE VISION, GOALS AND PROCESS**

Chair Waterman referred to the mind mapping exercise of April 10 and noted that defining the Commission's and Langley's vision, goals and processes for historic preservation was the second top tier priority for getting the program off the ground. In turn, each Commission member related their observations about the potential role of preservation in Langley. Key elements included the following:

1. Establish a vision and list of goals as soon as possible.
2. Define Langley's historic character as reflected in the current built environment – long vistas of mountains and water; small scale buildings of wood; a certain lack of elegance and refinement; more whimsical, organic construction style and details; placement that conceals, then reveals as one moves along the street; strong relationship between buildings; false fronts, recessed doorways, display-size windows in commercial area; wide eclecticism in style; some infill that is modern but fits.
3. Capitalize on the history associated with each building.
4. Define neighborhood character and methods to preserve that character – use subarea planning process as advocated by the Comprehensive Plan.
5. Settle on a common “language” of preservation for Langley.
6. Keep Langley real – no Disneyfication.
7. Make historic preservation an essential component of public policy.
8. Engage the citizens and business community in all preservation initiatives – such as a photo contest to capture images of living history.

Finally, Commissioner Beeman read out an excerpt from an April 15, 2008 article in the New York Times about preservation in Luang Prabang, Laos. The Commission thought that the sentiment expressed by the Director of Cultural Preservation also fits for Langley and following substitutes “Langley” for Luang Prabang.

Architecturally, “there is nothing really outstanding Langley. When you look at the architecture, it is interesting but normal, very normal; the temples are a bit rough, not refined. What is really interesting in Langley is all that together. It is the ambience of the city, the daily life, the temples and monks. In Langley, when the ambience is gone, it will not be Langley any more.” While we may not have temples and monks, we certainly have a variety of buildings and citizens.

**ADJOURN**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 am.