

MINUTES
MASON COUNTY HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

Thursday, June 10, 2010

Mason County Building I, Conference Room I

Members Present: Stanley Graham, Llyn De Danaan, Valerie Johnson, Frank Benavente, Rick Calvin, Mo MacCracken and Elizabeth Jahnke

Mason County Staff: Michael MacSems, Barbara Adkins

Guests: Lynn Tollefson, Hwy 101 Project property owner; Vicky McKinnon and Lucile Carlson, applicants for the nomination of the Kennedy Cemetery; and Ross Gallagher, County Commissioner

I. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order by Stanley Graham, Chair, at 2:05pm.
Members reviewed, corrected, and approved Minutes from the May 13, 2010 MCHPC Meeting.

II. New Business

Guests Vicky McKinnon and Lucile Carlson were invited to discuss their application to fund a historical marker at the Kamilche/Kennedy Cemetery. Background information on the history, significance and the current condition of the cemetery was discussed. Commissioners provided comments and suggestions regarding the application. Commissioners were pleased with the work that has been done for the application. Mr. Graham will work with them on some aspects of the application and Mr. Calvin volunteered to be the “point man” to help with the on-going process for the nomination. Ms McKinnon and Ms Carlson also expressed an interest in working to nominate the Kamilche/Kennedy Cemetery to the Mason County Historic Register.

Guest Lynn Tollefson discussed his interest in the Hwy 101 Project and was excited to see his property listed. He had done some checking with various entities to begin to understand the history of the buildings on the property. Mr. Graham will work with him on some information that may be available from the Mason County Historical Society museum. Mr. Tollefson would like to see a brochure with a map of the properties produced for people to use as a driving guide to the area. Commissioners agreed that a brochure of that type would be a very worthwhile project. It was agreed that the map that is to be provided to DAHP could be used as a basis for the brochure.

Signage, plaques and historic markers were discussed and a sub-committee was appointed to work on standards. Dr De Danaan, Mr. Graham, Mr. Calvin and Ms Jahnke will meet and report back to the group.

DISCUSSION OF FUTURE PLANS:

- 1) MC Staff and role for MCHPC. Mr. MacSems' role is support for the Commission and is under "other duties" in his job description. Supervisor Barbara Adkins was present to help with any questions Commission members had. By-laws outline the types of duties and Mr. MacSems has a good idea of what things he cannot do. Right now, with the present economy, he has the time needed, but that may not be the case when the economy improves. The Commission is satisfied with the work performed and is willing to do the things that Mr. MacSems is unable to do. Part of his salary is paid by MCHPC funds. It was established that any grant work must be administered by Mr. MacSems.

As part of this discussion Mr. Calvin suggested that the MCHPC has a role to support and encourage other groups to do some of the preservation work needed and the Commission doesn't have to do it all.

Dr. De Danaan pointed out that we are a volunteer group and we need to be careful and rational about what we take on. We need to be able to do what needs to be done if there is minimal staff support.

Mr. Graham pointed out that when we hire for a project, we need to be more careful about our choices. He spent a lot of his time to make the Hwy 101 Project a success and it wasn't his place to keep the contractor on track. The Commission learned a lot during the 101 Survey Project and is still awaiting the final product.

- 2) Minimal discussion was held regarding corporate email accounts, so that the MCHPC members don't have to use their personal emails. It was decided that this wasn't necessary. This issue is dead.
- 3) Discussion regarding guest comment regarding grant deadline. The grant is on-going (revolving), so Mr. MacSems will check the website to make sure there isn't a designated deadline posted.
- 4) Web page will be checked by Mr. MacSems for the Commissioner's information to see that it is current and correct.
- 5) Rhonda Foster from the Squaxin Tribe will contact Chris Miller from the Skokomish to facilitate an annual meeting between tribal representatives and member of the MCHPC.
- 6) Previously awarded grants should be reviewed in order for the Commission to keep up and be helpful to future grant applicants.

- 7) Networking can be a valuable tool. The MCHPC will explore the possibility of joining the Washington State Historical Society by submitting membership cost for approval by the County Commissioners.
- 8) Historic Markers/Plaques should be made out of materials that are not attractive to vandals.
- 9) MCHPC has a logo that can be placed on markers and plaques.
- 10) The Kamilche/Kennedy Cemetery Grant Application was discussed. The Commission is eager to work with Ms McKinnon and Ms Carlson on this project.

III. Old Business

5th Birthday Celebration

Celebration went very well. Approx. 50 people attended. Many groups set up mini-displays. The event generated much interest in preservation activities and at least five people are interested in applications for the county register.

Thank you letters will be sent to presenters Julie Koler, Mildred Andrews and the Grant School team. Mr. Graham will figure out who set up the displays and thank them as well. Ms Koler will be paid a stipend of \$500.00. The “videos” of the event should be delivered to Mr. MacSems by June 25.

Highway 101 Project Update

Ms Andrews is working on the Context Statement, the CD with photos of the properties and the Map, which needs to go to DAHP.

Mr. MacSems will contact Megan at DAHP in order to make sure that the MCHPC gets copies of the submitted map.

IV. Other Commission Discussion

Cultural Resource Summit

Held near Poulsbo on June 7th and 8th and attended by Mr. MacSems, Mr. Graham, Mr. Benavente, and Mr. Calvin. They reported that it was interesting and valuable for the members. This year the topics focused on tribal issues. There may be opportunities for content suggestions at future summits. It was recommended that the MCHPC send different members every year.

Correspondence

Dr. De Danaan reminded MCHPC members that the History Links blog is interesting and we should look it over. Mr. Graham said that he looked at the information for Mason County and saw gross errors, which he notified them about. He sent the corrected information several months ago and hasn't seen the corrections on the site yet.

Financial

During discussion of budget, Ms Jahnke suggested that the Commission hire a graphics company to create the map brochure as suggested earlier. Other members agreed that this would be a good use of funds.

When the MCHPC receives the copy of the map from the Hwy 101 Project, Ms Johnson and Ms Jahnke will decide the next steps for a brochure. Ms Johnson suggested the title “Mason County Historic Treasure Map”.

Ms MacCracken mentioned that she was disappointed about the rule against scholarships, but discussion ensued regarding a way to use the money to award schools instead of individuals. The idea of a contest to encourage the study of area history was discussed as a way to generate interest.

MCHPC discussed other ways to generate interest by holding grant workshops, submitting a monthly column to the Journal, or give talks at local civic organizations or groups.

Other

Mr. MacSems reported that he has set the “wheels in motion” for a replacement for Ms. MacCracken who is moving out of state. Her last day on her job with WSU is August 15.

V. Next Meeting

July 8, 2010.

VI. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 4:10pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Elizabeth Jahnke, Co-Chair and Acting Secretary.