

MINUTES
MASON COUNTY HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
Thursday, January 13, 2011
Mason County Building I, Conference Room

Members Present: Stanley Graham, Dr. Llyn De Danaan , Rick Calvin, Marty Harrell and Elizabeth Jahnke.

Members Excused: Valerie Johnson.

Vacant Seat: 1 (Member term expired Nov. 2010)

Staff: Michael MacSems, Mason County

Guest: John Keats

I. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order by Mr. Graham, Chair, at 1:58pm. Reviewed, corrected and approved the Minutes from the December 9, 2010 Meeting.

II. New Business

The Commission regrettably accepted the letter of resignation from Dr. Llyn De Danaan. Dr. De Danaan served on the Commission since its inception in May 2005. Her expertise will be greatly missed. Dr. De Danaan is leaving the Commission in order to continue her authorship of a book about Oyster Bay history. The Commission wishes her well and thanks her for her service to Mason County.

As a result of the vacancy created by Dr. De Danaan, the Commissions recognition as a Certified Local Government (CLG) may be at jeopardy. Members may be able to recommend someone who fits the “professional” criteria needed to fill her now vacant position and there will be a posting listed for the vacancy. The MCHPC Ordinance states that “professionals” are not required to reside in Mason County.

Mr. MacSems inquired if the Commission is interested in utilizing “social media” formats such as Flickr to share photos and documents with the public. There was some discussion as to whether or not it was legally prudent for a government commission to engage in interactive social media sites. It was suggested that perhaps a partnership with the Mason County Historical Society would be optimum. Dr. De Danaan made a motion that Staff is authorized to look into the HPC’s use of social media and report back to the Commission at a later date. Seconded by Rick Calvin and passed unanimously.

III. Old Business

Kamilchie/Kamilche/Kennedy Cemetery

With help from Dr, De Danaan, Mr. Graham is preparing a fuller application narrative for the Commission to review prior to any vote to recommend that this County-owned cemetery be placed on the Mason County Historic Register. The Commission discussed at length what the name of the cemetery should be listed under. It was decided that the

historical name (as far back as the 1850's) has been *Kamilchie* Cemetery. Commission will discuss again at the March meeting.

“Malaney House” Application (a.k.a. McDonald House/Oakland Bay).

John Keats (Mason County Parks & Recreation manager) was present as a guest to discuss the “Malaney House” application and the issues that have arisen since the Cultural Resources Survey & Report. Much discussion ensued. The Survey and the resulting Report was meant to fulfill requirements to gain grant monies from the Dept. of the Interior/National Park Service (DoI/NPS) through the Land/Water Conservation Fund. The house was not at issue. The DoI/NPS has since focused on the house and wants a “stabilization plan” for it. All work on the site has been stopped until the DoI/NPS is satisfied regarding the house. The Commission feels that the house does not meet the criteria for placement on either state or national registers. Mr. Graham will draft a letter to the DAHP and the DoI/NPS to ask for clarification on letter received regarding the status of the house. The Commission again thanks Mr. Keats for taking the time to come and discuss the issue.

The Commission will continue to pursue the creation of levels of designations for historical properties and structures. Having different levels will ensure that different aspects of properties and structures are officially recognized without rigorous criteria.

Grant Capabilities:

Rick Calvin distributed and the Commission discussed the *draft* Mason County Heritage Grant Program Guidelines. Using another county's guidelines as a template, Mr. Calvin created a very nice document for review. After much discussion, wordsmithing and clarification by the Commission, a motion for use of the document after corrections was approved. Mr. Calvin will make the corrections and email the final to the members. The Guidelines will be presented to the County Commissioners for approval. Mr. MacSems requested that Mr. Graham be present at a Monday morning briefing should the County Commissioners have any questions.

Upon approval, the Guidelines will be posted on the County web page.

Motion was approved to remove the current grant application from the web page.

Commissioners further discussed that there shouldn't be a lot of “hand-holding” of the applicants and that we would offer suggestions for improvements/clarifications and give the applicants the opportunity to re-submit or wait for the next grant cycle.

Applications could be reviewed by a sub-committee of the Commission and then a report could be presented at the meeting, so that valuable meeting time would not be taken up reviewing the applications.

Maritime Transportation Project:

Nothing to report. Will place on future agenda.

Request for Proposals process:

Nothing to report.

Signage and Plaques:

Signage decisions will be on hold until the approval and addition of the Kamilchie Cemetery to the Register.

Commission discussed handout of signs and “B” was the choice for the oval shaped house signs. It was decided to place “Mason County Historic Register” on the signs for the properties that are on the Register. Signs without the word “Register” would be used for properties that have historical value, but do not match the full criteria for the Register.

Committee Updates:

None.

IV. Other Commission Discussion

Correspondence:

None.

Financial Statement:

Commission reviewed and motion carried to accept report.

Historical Preservation Month:

Mr. Calvin reminded Commission that May is Historical Preservation Month. Mr. MacSems will place topic on agenda for next meeting.

V. Next Meeting Date:

February 10, 2011

VI. Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned at 4:03pm.

Respectfully submitted by Elizabeth Jahnke, Vice-Chair and Scribe.