

MINUTES
MASON COUNTY HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
Thursday, February 10, 2011
Mason County Building I, Conference Room

Members Present: Stanley Graham, Rick Calvin, Marty Harrell and Elizabeth Jahnke.
Vacant Seats: 3 (1 expired term; 2 resignations)
Staff: Michael MacSems, Mason County
Guest: Stephanie Neil

I. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order by Mr. Graham, Chair, at 2:00 P.M. Reviewed, corrected and approved the Minutes from the January 13, 2011 meeting.

II. New Business

New Member Application: Commission invited guest Stephanie Neil to give a little personal background information in regard to her application to fill a vacant Preservation Commission seat. Commission is very pleased to have an applicant of her caliber. After a brief discussion, the Commission approved a motion to forward a recommendation to the County Commissioners for Ms Neil's appointment to the Mason County Historic Preservation Commission.

The Commission regretfully accepted the letter of resignation from Valerie Johnson. Mrs. Johnson served on the Commission since November 2007. Her knowledge and love of Mason County will be greatly missed. The Commission wishes her, the very best.

The Commission approved a motion to award plaques to Ross Gallagher, former Mason County Commissioner and Dr. Llyn De Danaan, Mr. Frank Benevente, and Mrs. Valerie Johnson, former Mason County Historic Preservation Commissioners to commemorate the support and work that they have given to further historic awareness and preservation in the County. Elizabeth will do some research on plaque ideas and report back to the Commission.

Squaxin Tribe's Letter of Support: After a brief discussion, the Commission approved a motion that Mr. Graham would, on behalf of the MCHPC, write a letter of support of the Squaxin Tribe's nomination of Cultural Resource Consultant Inc for a 2011 SHPO award for the sensitive work done to re-locate the Slocum cemetery.

Commissioner Calvin reminded Commission that May is Historic Preservation Month. After some discussion, a motion was approved that the MCHPC contact the Grant School (Mrs. Harrell) for May 15 and the Allyn Church (Mr. Calvin) for May 21 and begin to plan open houses. It was decided that any two days during

May would be fine, even if the open houses ran concurrently. Mr. Calvin will also contact the Matlock Old Timers Festival (May 7 & 8) organizers to see if MCHPC can have a table or have brochures available. MCHPC talked about making a poster to promote these activities. Details will be discussed at the March 2011 meeting after report of progress.

III. Old Business

“Malaney House” Application (a.k.a. McDonald House/Oakland Bay) Update: No update. Commission will place on agenda for the March 2011 meeting.

Mason County Heritage Grant Program Guidelines: Mr. MacSems reports that the Guidelines document has been given to the PA’s office for approval before being sent forward for approval by the M.C. Commissioners. There isn’t a timeline for how long this step will take. The MCHPC decided that we will promote grants and assume that the Guidelines will go through as written. The Commission commends Mr. Calvin for his work on the Grant Program Guidelines.

The Commission briefly discussed 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. The designation at the lowest level will be “Historic Interest”. It may be that the MCHPC can use that term for many sites and have only one other term for the sites that have met the rigorous criteria.

Signage/Plaques: MCHPC continued discussion of the use of signs and plaques to designate sites. Commission approved a motion for Ms Jahnke to draft a letter to send to the owners of the properties on the HWY 101 Survey project to solicit interest in having a plaque. Mr. Calvin will draft a fold-up response form for the property owners to return to the MCHPC. Mr. Calvin will then follow-up by ordering the plaques with the following inscription:

2010

The Mason County Historical Preservation Commission recognizes this property as a place of historic interest to the people and culture of Mason County.

[Staff note: The word “Historical” in the title of this organization should read as “Historic”]

Committee Updates:

Mr. Graham will check with Mrs. Johnson about the progress of the MCHPC “treasure map” project.

Grant Review Committee is on hold until a later date.

IV. Other Commission Discussion

Correspondence:
None.

Financial Statement:
Report not available for review.

Other Business:

Ms Jahnke shared news of Senate Bill 5768, which has been introduced in the State Legislature. The Bill is designed to create a Department of Heritage, Arts and Culture. This new Dept. would include the State Archives, the State Library, the Dept. of History and Archeology, the State Historic Society and Museum and the Arts Commission among other entities.

V. Next Meeting Date:
March 10, 2011

VI. Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned at 3:38 P.M.

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