

Cordova Historic Preservation Commission

Meeting Minutes – Thursday, Jan. 5, 2017

Members present: Jim Casement, Brooke Johnson, Cathy Sherman and Tom McGann in Cordova; and John Wachtel and Heather Hall, via teleconference; Absent: Sylvia Lange
Others present: Volunteer staff support Nancy Bird.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Casement just after 5 pm.

There were no members of the public present at this time in the meeting. Later in the meeting, Mayor Clay Koplun and City Manager Alan Lanning joined in the audience.

Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve the agenda as presented made by McGann, seconded by Johnson. Unanimous approval.

Approval of Minutes from October 6, 2016 meeting

Motion to approve the minutes as presented, made by McGann and seconded by Johnson. Unanimous approval.

Review plans and timeline for two grants received for Certified Local Governments (CLGs) –

a. Red Dragon Historic District grant approved for a total project cost of \$8,721 (CHPC share \$3,600 in-kind, and Federal share \$4,450 for contractual costs, administrative indirect costs \$671). The products from this grant will be two historic preservation bronze signs for the Red Dragon and St. George's Church, one additional larger interpretive sign, and additional historic details posted to the Red Dragon Historic District website. Volunteer Nancy Bird briefly described her plans to recruit additional volunteers from the church membership to assist her in researching and drafting the interpretive sign and updating the webpages. She hopes to follow the calendar schedule outlined in the grant application. She will recruit additional helpers, as needed, from the commission or church membership.

b. Copper River Highway Milepost History Tour grant approved for a total project cost of \$7,567 (CHPC share \$3,125 in-kind, and Federal share \$3,860, administrative indirect costs \$582). The products from this grant will be a two-sided color brochure that is a milepost guide from Mile 0 to Mile 12 of the Copper River Highway. Commission members Sherman, Johnson and Lange will coordinate this project.

Both grants must be completed by Sept. 30, 2017. Detailed timelines for project work for each grant are included in their respective grant applications.

Review and approve proposed amendments to Cordova City Code, Chapter 18.90

Former Museum Assistant Bird reviewed a draft she prepared of city code Chapter 18.90 including proposed amendments. McGann, who also serves on the city's Planning and Zoning Commission, said the P&Z wants to revise the entire Chapter 18 to make it less ambiguous, clarify issues and improve its consistency.

Motion made by Sherman, seconded by McGann to recommend to the Planning and Zoning Commission adoption of the Chapter 18.90 amendments as presented.

Discussion ensued and general consensus was in agreement with the revisions proposed. However, it was pointed out that review by the State Historic Officer would be helpful in regards to Section 18.90.040; is the language and process included there still consistent with state statutes and

procedures? After further discussion, consensus reached to withdraw the motion on the floor and have the Commission Chair (Casement) send these proposed code revisions to the State Historic Preservation Officer for review and comment prior to the next CHPC meeting.

Motion withdrawn and proposed action stated above endorsed unanimously.

Historic Building Surveys

This discussion follows up from the last meeting where general support was expressed to develop a new survey and inventory of historic properties. Wachtel summarized several detailed historic building surveys completed by state historic officers (focused on Orca Cannery, Lake Avenue and Main Street), and Sherman and Bird briefly described the last (less detailed) historic survey completed in 1985 of the entire town and noted a walking tour was completed in the mid-1990s. Hall briefly described a historic survey recently completed by the community of Hope on Cook Inlet.

Consensus agreement that we should try to review these past resources and others and continue discussion of this project for the future. Casement noted that the new history teacher at the high school would likely be willing to help with a building survey project through as a class project. Some discussion ensued on the value of community involvement in the commission's work.

Wachtel said he could share with other Commission members PDF documents of Rolfe Buzzell's historic survey publications.

Next meeting date

The next meeting will be in April; Bird will send everyone a Doodle poll to determine the best day and time.

Closing comments

Mayor Koplín thanked everyone for their service and expressed interest in the projects.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by McGann. No objection. The meeting was adjourned at just before 6 pm.