

Cordova Historic Preservation Commission

Meeting Minutes – Thursday, April 25, 2019

Members present: Jim Casement and Nancy Bird in Cordova, and via teleconference: John Wachtel and Heather Hall. Absent: Brooke Johnson, Wendy Ranney and Cathy Sherman.

Others: Bill Hall.

The meeting was called to order by Chair J. Casement about 5:15 pm.
The agenda was approved without objection.

Approval of minutes

Chair Casement asked that the minutes of March 14, 2019 be approved. Unanimous approval was given.

Discussion Cordova Historic building survey

The one-page outline titled “Cordova Historic Building Inventory Survey” and the “Historic Preservation Curriculum” description were discussed at some length. Bird reported that she had spoken with Dixie Lambert about collaborating on this project. Lambert is preparing a written publication which will probably include more information than required for the Commission’s project, and Lambert does not want to be involved with the school project.

The primary product required of the Commission for the Certified Local Government certification is to maintain an updated spreadsheet of historic properties.

Bird also reported on a meeting she had with Ranney and Kate Williams, the high school principal. The class the Commission is proposing to sponsor would start meeting on Wednesdays from August 21 to December 20. It would include 10th-12th grade students and be limited to 9 students. The class period would be between 77 and 100 minutes long. Field work would have to be limited to areas easily walked to by the students.

There was some discussion about the training workshop previously planned to occur in late August so that it could include the students as well as other community members interested in this project. Wachtel reiterated his willingness to help with that workshop which we hope will be led by Summer Louthan, from the State Office of History & Archaeology.

Several Commission members expressed support to continue to try to involve students in this project. They also want to re-double efforts to collaborate with and support Lambert’s project.

Hall wanted it noted that she has records from the Olsen Bay Fisheries Research Station at her house.

Cordova District Fisheries United records preservation

Bill Hall, who grew up in Cordova, briefly described an effort he is undertaking to help preserve and organize written records from CDFU’s past that are currently stored in boxes in the basement of their building. Hall is meeting with CDFU staff and Board members tomorrow to further discuss the project. He intends to write a grant to the Alaska Humanities Forum to obtain funds which would pay for someone to be hired to catalog the records. He has spoken with Dixie Lambert about having her do the actual work and she is interested. There was brief discussion on how the Historic Preservation

Commission might assist this project. Consensus agreement that a letter of support from the Commission is appropriate.

NEXT STEPS:

- Hall suggested we talk again with Lambert about partnering on a grant to support the building survey work, and reiterated support for collaborations with other entities such as the Native Village of Eyak and the high school.

Next meeting date To be determined.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6 pm.

These minutes were approved November 21, 2019.