

The regular meeting of the Elkins Historic Landmarks Commission (EHLC) was called to order at 7:05 p.m. on Wednesday, April 22, 2009.

Members of the commission in attendance were Carol Schuler, Phyllis Baxter, Logan Smith, David Turner and Ellen Spears.

Mayor Duke Talbott was present and asked to speak before the start of the regular meeting as he had another meeting to attend. The Mayor spoke with commissioners with regard to the letter of April 6, 2009, in which he requested that the EHLC initiate a plan for the Darden complex (house, garden, and carriage house).

He asked that the EHLC remove the addition that has been added to the carriage house in recent years.

The Mayor also discussed his desire to appoint Council members to attend the EHLC meetings.

On the Mayor's departure, the minutes from the March meeting were approved.

Logan Smith presented the treasurer's report and after an adjustment in the electric bill, it was approved. As a part of the report, it was again stressed that EHLC needs to receive written notice from the Weavers' Guild addressing their departure and then EHLC can return \$700.00 of rental fee.

Phyllis Baxter reported on her work compiling the objectives and projects outlined by each commissioner at our work session. Six objectives were approved without implication of priority. Each commissioner agreed to look at the projects and prioritize them before the May work session.

The May work session is scheduled for Wednesday, May 6th, from 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Ellen agreed to talk to Ed Griesel and Kadra Cassidy about serving on a volunteer force to find an adaptive reuse for the Darden House, Garden, and Carriage House.

Heather Biola was present and asked EHLC to review the proposed adaptive reuse plans offered by possible consultants for the Kump House project. She also asked that several of the commissioners take part in the follow on interviewing process of these consultants. Interviews are scheduled for May 12 – 15th. Carol and Phyllis will take part in the interviews.

It was determined that our regularly scheduled meeting on the 3rd Wednesday of the month does not conflict with that of the City's Municipal Properties Committee that is scheduled for the 4th Wednesday of each month. This was of interest because Nanci Fregonara chairs the Municipal Committee and she will also be appointed to attend EHLC meetings.

Discussion took place about a "Preservation Trades" organization that could work on all historic properties in Elkins and the greater historic community. It would require finding someone who is a master craftsman who would be willing to take on apprentices and teach them the trade of historic preservation. The thought was that with the number of historic buildings that currently need attention and the perceived need for vocational schooling for our youth, the establishment of such an organization could fill an important vocational skills void in our community while serving to aid in the preservation of historic properties.

There was further discussion about collaborative efforts in the historic community. Phyllis suggested that VISION 2010 could have a representative from the history group working on a council with a representative from each of the historic groups.

Logan Smith reported on the status of the office. He said that the working papers are filed but the archived papers still need to be filed.

Peter Baxter donated a computer hard drive for the office computer. Logan will donate a copier/printer.

The question was posed; do we want a phone line? Having a phone line would allow internet connection.

Carol presented a copy of The Alliance Review, and proposed that we join. It was agreed and Logan will take care of the action.

Logan Smith announced that the auction at Scott Hill is scheduled for June 6th.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.