



Elkins Historic Landmarks Commission Minutes September 16, 2009

The regular meeting of the Elkins Historic Landmarks Commission was called to order at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, September 16, 2009.

Members of the commission in attendance were Carol Schuler, Phyllis Baxter, Logan Smith and David Turner. Ellen Spears was absent. Guest Carrie Noble Kline was in attendance.

Minutes, distributed via email prior to the meeting, were approved unanimously.

Public comment:

Carrie Noble Kline shared with the Commission the process that she and her husband Michael of Talking Across the Lines productions use for collecting oral history testimonials and interweaving them to tell a story of a community. They are proposing consideration of a project to collect oral history of the Wees District. She shared an excerpt from the Pendleton County tour, using oral history and narration in an audio tour product. The Commission discussed the value of collecting stories and connecting the social history of the community to historic buildings, as well as the need to collect stories from older folks before they are lost. Carol asked Carrie to prepare a proposal to give us an idea of costs with phases suggested that could be adjusted to funds available. The Commission will research grant possibilities.

Carol shared an issue from City Council member Nanci Bross Fregonara who is looking for support for funding to appropriately replace the roof on the water fountain at the City Park.

The treasurer's report was presented by Logan Smith and approved unanimously.

Correspondence:

The Commission discussed the bid process for the Darden porch. There have been some inquiries from interested parties, with bids due on Thursday September 24. A work session of the Commission will meet Friday, September 25th at 11 am for the bid opening.

Carol reported a web site inquiry looking for information about a bottle from Neils Drug.

The Commission received a request from SHPO regarding financial reporting for funds received in 2006.

A Memorandum of Agreement from WV Department of Transportation was copied to the EHLC regarding the proposed 11th and Randolph intersection improvement project that will impact the Kump House property. The Chair will follow up.

Chair report:

Carol met with Mayor Duke Talbott to discuss the EHLC strategic plan. The Mayor was complimentary about the plan and had some useful tactical suggestions about implementation. Carol will send a final copy of the plan, and notes from the Mayor's conversation, to the Commission by email.

Carol reported on the discussion of the Wees District lighting proposal that is an outgrowth of the Wees District plan. She has been advised by representatives of Region VII Planning and Development Council to place an ad for a Request for Quote that will provide information that can be used in a future grant application for the project. Logan moved, Carol seconded a motion to affirm the decision for EHLC to sponsor the ad for RFQ on behalf of the Wees District lighting plan. Motion approved. An RFQ review committee was suggested of 1 person from City, 1 person from County, 1 EHLC, 1 commercial representative along Randolph Avenue, and 3 Wees residents. Carol will send letters requesting committee members, who can meet during the week of Oct 5 – 9 to review proposals.

Carol reported that the Elkins ON TRAC work sessions went very well. Carol is on the Design committee, which is chaired by Ed Griesel.

Carol has met with AmeriCorps member Linda McCauley to begin work on mailing to historic property owners. AmeriCorps member Megan Grisolano has been assigned to work with the Commission on the preservation resource center.

Old Business:

Logan has prepared a comment letter supporting First Ward and Riverside National Register nominations.

The Darden Plan is in final revision. Any further comments should go to Carol.

New Business:

No new business

Work session meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, October 7 at noon.

Adjourned 9:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Phyllis Baxter (acting in absence of Secretary)