

Minutes of Jefferson County Landmarks Commission Meeting

April 15, 2009

Members Present: John Allen, Don Amoroso, Martin Burke, Carmen Creamer, Michael Musick. Guests: Bill Berry, Joyce Cole, John Cowan, Bill Theriault.

Introduction of New Commissioner, etc.: John Allen introduced Martin Burke, who succeeds to the Historic Landmarks Commission seat of the late Kip Stowell. John noted Martin's experience in working in the Smithsonian Institution and the National Park Service, and his knowledge of electronic media. John also distributed the "HLC Map and Database: Changes and Additions April 2009," and presented Bill Berry, who had been unable to attend our awards event last month, with his book and certificate of appreciation.

Minutes: The minutes of the March 18, 2009 meeting were distributed. Acceptance of the minutes was moved by Don Amoroso, seconded by Carmen Creamer, and passed.

Treasurer's Report: The treasurer's report was presented by Don Amoroso, with handouts distributed. He noted that we only spent \$110.14. John Allen stated that Martin Burke has been tasked with the HLC website. This was followed by discussion of perhaps arranging for online donations to the HLC. Martin will give us a rundown on this at our next meeting. Carmen Creamer moved acceptance of the treasurer's report, which was seconded by Michael Musick and passed. Don Amoroso and John Allen discussed budget planning, including provision for mowing, viewshed survey, and Peter Burr Farm and Poorhouse work. Don and John will confer about numbers, and urged that we think about it for our next meeting.

Peter Burr Farm: At a meeting on March 29 it was decided that the Friends will no longer schedule activities at the site. An HLC commissioner will run the Peter Burr House schedule; John Allen volunteered to do this. The commission member will deal with one person from each interested group. The Friends group had concerns on the budget, frequency of meetings, etc. Don Amoroso said he will join Bill Berry as being available for disbursement of money. John has asked Maggie Keeler and Irvan Groff for a schedule and list of safety/liability issues. A detailed discussion of safety issues ensued, with comments by Bill Berry, Don Amoroso, Bill Theriault, John Allen, and Carmen Creamer. Items included loose porch boards, fireplaces, a toilet shutoff valve, a tree stump, and wells. Bill Berry, from the Friends of Peter Burr, reported a balance of \$3,935.99. Fourth graders will visit May 26-29. The need to designate an area for bus parking was discussed. Bill Theriault has agreed to portray Peter Burr. He reported on a session on conservation of artifacts held at the National Conservation Center. Bread baking is the second Saturday of each month, with profits going toward conservation of artifacts. John Allen has spoken with student volunteers who will work on the conservation. Joyce Cole requested that some friends of hers interested in bringing ghost-hunting equipment to the Farm be allowed to camp out there the second weekend of May. The Group discussed the possibility of having a legal waiver prepared for such groups.

Site Reviews: Nothing has been received on the Tusawilla wastewater treatment plant. John Allen has discussed the Mount Hammond Road cell tower with a woman from the company. They will schedule a balloon test. John has notified property owners in the area.

Poor Farm: There is no updated information on this.

Ad Hoc Committee on Data: John Allen requested approval of the updated Historic Resources Map. Michael Musick moved approval of the list of changes, which was seconded by Martin Burke and passed. The addition of Martin to the committee was approved.

Courthouse: John Allen explained renovations requested by Judge Sanders for the Jefferson County Courthouse, specifically for doors, and to implement a law that requires that staff be protected from firearms. The judge is sensitive to historical concerns, says his budget has money for renovations, and asks for a list of things needed. Carmen Creamer urged long-term that a historic resources study of the courthouse be done, and short-term that we follow John's suggestions. Discussion of the historic resources report concluded that John should contact the National Trust for Historic Preservation to get us on track, and that we should all look around the courthouse to see what needs to be done.

Upcoming Events, Misc. : The April 17 meeting with the SHPO and National Register reviewer was cancelled. CVB relocation was considered, and it was agreed that we should send a letter to the county commission supporting the move from the trailer to an historic building. Don will take care of the plumbing issue at the Peter Burr Farm. Carmen Creamer suggested that we ask Susan Collins of the Jefferson County Museum to display historic items in a case at the courthouse. Martin Burke moved adjournment, which was seconded by Carmen and passed.