Jefferson County Historic Landmarks Commission

Minutes

The meeting was held on Thursday, January 19, at 7 p.m., in the office of the Jefferson County Commission. Commission members Adams, Coyle, Crolius, Theriault, and Washington were present.

Former commission chairman, John Schley, transmitted commission records to the group and discussed the location and significance of other relevant materials. The seated commission commended Capt. Schley and other previous members on their work.

Acting chairman, William Theriault, opened nominations for officers for 1989. Walter Washington was elected chairman and William Theriault Secretary-Treasurer. Jean Crolius was named Treasurer Designate.

Minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

Commission members at the previous meeting had voted to accept an historic easement on Blakey, owned by Mr. and Mrs. Jonkers, provided that the owners submit photographs adequately recording exterior detail and condition within 30 days. The photographs were accepted with a request that Gary Kable provide the commission with the date on which the photographs were taken.

Walter Washington said that he would notify the Jefferson County Assessor of Blakely's new tax status.

Members agreed that their first order of business should be the development of procedures to handle requests for designation of historic sites and certificates of appropriateness. Members Crolius and Washington volunteered to request sample materials from the National Historic Trust and the West Virginia Department of Culture and History. This material, as well as the commission's earlier bylaws, will be reviewed at the next meeting.

There was a discussion about the relationship of revised Article 26A of the West Virginia Code to the Jefferson County Zoning Ordinance. Theriault requested that county planner, Paul Raco, be asked to supply commission members with copies of the new zoning ordinance.

The following correspondence to the commission was reviewed:

A request from William Hartgroves expressing concern about the condition and maintenance of the stone baths at Shannondale Springs

A request from Charles Lord of the Shenandoah Valley Heritage Alliance, requesting the commission to join the organization and to draft a letter of support for SVHA's objectives and for preservation of Bolivar Battlefield

A request from Scot Faulkner to have his property in Bolivar Heights (block C, Lots 42, 44, 46, 48, 50; Block D, Lots 55, 56) designated an historic site. Mr. Faulkner also requested that the commission "consider designating the entire valley an historic site."

A request from Bruce and Patricia Craig to have their property (Stonewall Estates, parcel 3) designated as a Jefferson County Historic Landmark. The Craigs also asked that the commission draft a letter to the Jefferson County Planning Commission expressing concern over the proposed Harpers Ferry Estates Development and requesting delay of final plat approval until the landmarks commission had determined the historical significance of the site. Finally, the Craigs asked that the Landmarks Commission consider designating the entire area from Bolivar Heights to Schoolhouse Ridge an historic landmark.

The commission moved to send correspondents a letter acknowledging the receipt of these requests and advising them that their requests are being studied.

Members agreed that they would come to the next meeting prepared to discuss their own priorities regarding historic preservation.

The next meeting was scheduled for Thursday February 16, 7 p.m., at the County Commission Office. Meetings of the Historic Landmarks Commission will be regularly held at 7 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month.

Respectfully submitted,

William D. Theriault

Secretary