

Providence Historic Preservation Commission Meeting
May 31, 2005
6:00 p.m.

Those present: Karl Seethaler, Marie Olsen, Keith Watkins, Adrian Gale, Hoyt Kelley,
Visitors: Dale Astle Minutes taken by Brenda Nelson.
Meeting was called to order by Seethaler.
Motion to approve minutes of March 29, 2005 made by A.Gale.
Second: H. Kelley. All in favor.

Item 1. K. Broschinsky has been delayed so Item 2 was discussed first.

Item 2. Discussion on Oral Histories of Long-Time Residents

The secretary reported that she spoke with the Special Collections Dept. at USU about using a student to do the interviews to provide oral histories of some of our elderly residents. Since school is out, the number of students available is limited. However, the Special Collections Dept. is very interested in helping the City, and would like to have a copy of the results for their collection. Later, a student, Rachel Gianni, who had heard of the project, contacted the City Office and said she is very interested in helping with the project. However, she is in Europe until after August 11. The secretary has already spoken with a City resident, Craig Larocco, about the project, and he would be willing to do it. M. Olsen wondered if there was a student who would do it for free. H. Kelley thought maybe an older person would be available to do the interviews. A. Gale and K. Watkins said we need to have a degree of professionalism, and someone already trained to do this type of work would be better. Dale Astle stated that a history student would do a good job and many need internships. K. Seethaler reported that he used a student once for a project and it wasn't ever completed.

There is a budget of \$2500 for this project, and the budget year starts July 1. One positive about the Special Collections student is that she has access to all the interviewing and transcription equipment. Dale Astle suggested each candidate submit a resume and then the Commission could decide which to use. H. Kelley felt that the Commission should have some input in the type of questions asked.

The secretary reported that Craig Larocco has done an interview of Levaun Zollinger, a local resident. Everyone was interested in seeing this interview to see the technique Larocco uses. The Commission does not meet again till the end of August. K. Seethaler suggested we have a special meeting in the next few weeks to make a decision. The secretary will email the other candidate and see if she has a resume or an example of her work. The Commission needs to decide what the purpose of this project is: to collect a history, or to see what a glimpse of what the town was like. **Motion** by A. Gale: to have Craig provide his interview of Levaun Zollinger along with a resume and ideas of how he would approach the project. Also, that we get the same type of information from the other candidate and then have the Commission meet again in a few weeks. **Second:** H. Kelley. All in favor.

Item 1. Final Report on Reconnaissance Survey

Korral Broschinsky presented her final report on the reconnaissance survey to the Commission. She has prepared a large map as well as an 8"x11" which shows the

concentration of homes that qualify in the A, B or C category. It shows that most of the contributing homes are found within the original townsite. She also included maps from the history book as well as a CD of the information.

The project report includes the research design, the process followed, the outlined history of Providence, architectural periods, the number of buildings in each period, statistical information, narrative and appendix. She included her recommendations and pictures of the homes considered. She used the year 1961 as her cut off date because of several factors, one being it was the year the first subdivision was platted in Providence.

K. Broschinsky's recommendations include the following:

1. Consider this survey as a starting point and go from there. Further survey work is recommended. If we wish to create a historic district, we would need a standard survey done which includes every property within a certain area. The survey Broschinsky did was a selective survey of 277 properties.
2. K. Broschinsky listed six reasons to consider a historic district.
 - a. Grid-iron blocks are intact
 - b. Original large lots are mostly still in place
 - c. Groups of outbuildings in inner lots remain
 - d. Architectural periods are represented in homes
 - e. Still have irrigation ditches
 - f. Area is recognized by the community as a historic downtown area
3. In lieu of a historic district, the City can submit a multiple property nomination. This type of nomination does not list specific buildings, but includes them in a group belonging to a type of architecture or a period of history. For example, Mormon meetinghouses as a group, or Gothic Revival brick buildings. This allows certain B classification homes that may not be considered on their own to be included in a group. This might be a good alternative if it seems to be unpopular to have a district.
4. Do a local register. This would include some that may not qualify as contributing, but could be part of a local landmark register. This is done through local ordinances. Could provide plaques for homes on the local landmark register.
5. This survey can be used to educate the public. Suggestions include a walking tour, presentations to school classes, newspaper articles about a specific building, etc. This brings a sense of history to the residents and especially the youth.
6. Need to create a list of addresses to consider for intensive level surveys. These surveys show in-depth study of construction, architecture, history, etc. Use them to boost a district nomination. Use them for a national register nomination.

Other Suggestions:

1. Need local support to create a historic district. A public awareness campaign where questions are answered helps alleviate concerns.
2. Ordinance on design review may be one way to go. CLG may also be part of the design review committee.
3. State and federal tax credits available as a benefit to historic buildings.
4. If a historic district goes through, the tax credits are available to even the B buildings in that area.

Motion to adjourn: H. Kelley; Second: Watkins Meeting adjourned 7:45 p.m.