

Providence Historic Preservation Commission Meeting
August 4, 2005
6:00 p.m.

Those Present: Commission members: Karl Seethaler, Adrian Gale, Kaye Lyn Harris, Jay Hicken.

Other Visitors: Skarlet Bankhead, City Administrator, and Alma Leonhardt, Mayor

Minutes taken by Brenda Nelson

Motion by K. Harris to approve the minutes of June 29, 2005. Second by A. Gale. All in favor.

Item 1. Discussion of oral history interviews. At the last meeting, we discussed doing oral history interviews. The Commission met with Craig Larocco and Lisa Duskin-Goede, who are both interested in doing the project. Another person, Rachel Gianni, has also expressed interest, but is in Europe till August 15.

B. Nelson read an e-mail from L. Duskin-Goede where she said it is possible to do group interviews, but they are difficult to transcribe. She mentioned another person, Liz Harvey, that may want to work on the project. She also spoke of applying for an oral history grant to help fund the project.

The Commission did not want to involve another person. They were most impressed with L. Duskin-Goede. J. Hicken stated that we need to decide our goal for the project. What is the emphasis going to be? K. Harris felt that the history book, *Providence and Her People*, should be the textbook, and the interview questions could be about the topics in the book. If our goal is to support the development of an updated edition of the book, then that should be our focus.

S. Bankhead thought that if we are working on an update to the book, we should start in the 1970s. We don't need to re-write the history. We want to take the best of the previous edition and add to it. The interviews would add detail to the book.

There was a concern about L. Duskin-Goede requesting 24 hours for each interview including the transcription. The Commission felt that 14 hours would be sufficient. K. Harris suggested we offer 15 hours at \$20 per hour to give them some leeway. If we can get a grant, it will double the amount of funding.

The Commissioners discussed who would be good candidates for interviewing. The Commission agreed to interview Opal Chugg, Keith Watkins, Jake Fuhriman, Chester Zollinger, Fern Sibbett, Hoyt Kelley, Ray Mathews, Glen Dattage. Both Chester Z. and Fern S. live at the Assisted Living Center. Maybe they could be interviewed together. The Commission would like the transcription to be a topical one. The next Commission meeting is on August 30. Each member was asked to look through the history book and see if there were other topics other than those listed in the book to include in the interviews.

At this time, we will not plan on using Craig Larocco as an interviewer.

MOTION by J. Hicken that we employ L. Duskin-Goede and R. Gianni to work together to interview the 8 people identified with the stipulation that they take no more than 15 hours and be paid \$20 per hour. Amended by K. Harris to add that the interviewers use

the subjects in the history book for their interview questions. SECOND by K. Harris. All in favor.

Item 2. Oral history grant. There are two types of grants available. The grant for up to \$1,500 is available at any time during the year. A \$3,000 grant has an application deadline of Sept. 1 and Mar. 1. The Commission felt we should try to get the full \$3,000. MOTION by K. Harris that we apply for the \$3,000 oral history grant. SECOND by J. Hicken. All in favor. B. Nelson will complete the grant application and plan to submit it by Sept. 1

Item 3. Discussion on creating a historic district. Wilson Martin, who is with the State Historic Preservation Office, visited Providence on July 29. He was following up with our reconnaissance survey. K. Seethaler met with him and showed him around Providence. W. Martin encouraged us to make a nomination to the National Historic Register to create a historic downtown historic district. MOTION by A. Gale to create a historic district as it has been identified in the reconnaissance survey. People are nervous about being part of such a district because they feel it will restrict what they can do with their home. W. Martin assured us that they could even demolish their home with no consequences. If the homes are in the historic district, they are eligible for tax credits. S. Bankhead felt that people need to be educated. There needs to be information given to homeowners in this prospective district so they know what is involved and how it will affect them. W. Martin told us that another reconnaissance survey was not necessary. We could submit the work K. Broschinsky did and use her recommendations. This may be something we could do for our next grant application. It was suggested that we invite Wilson Martin back to talk to the Commission as well as the residents in the prospective historic district. SECOND by K. Harris. All in favor.

Other business:

K. Seethaler reported that the State Historical Preservation Office is very concerned because money allocated for historic preservation has been decreasing each year. They asked the local CLG members to encourage political leaders to continue their support of historic preservation. All money is used for grants.

The Commission decided to invite Scott Theobald, Lyle Hillyard, Fred Hunsaker, Peter Knudson, as well as Providence City officials to the November 29th meeting. We can show them the reconnaissance survey and the progress on the oral history interviews.

S. Bankhead said that when Providence City gets the Youth Council in place, they would like to assign some of them to come and meet with the Commission. The Commission could give them assignments and give them a chance to do service.

Meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.