

PROVIDENCE CITY

Historic Preservation Commission Meeting Agenda

November 15, 2006

The Providence City Historic Preservation Commission will hold a public meeting on Wednesday, November 15, 2006, at 6:00 p.m. at the Providence City Council Chambers, 15 South Main, Providence, Utah. The items listed below will be discussed and anyone interested is invited to attend.

ITEM 1. Oral History Project Final Report

ITEM 2. Discussion on update of *Providence & Her People*

If you have a disability and/or need special assistance while attending the Providence City Historic Preservation Commission meeting, please call 435-752-9441 before 5:00 p.m. on the day of the meeting.

Providence Historic Preservation Commission Meeting
November 15, 2006
6:00 p.m.

Those present: Commissioners: Karl Seethaler, Alma Leonhardt, Kaye Lyn Harris, Jay Hicken, Hoyt Kelley, Adrian Gale, Marie Olsen
Others: Kathy Baker, Skarlet Bankhead

K. Seethaler called the meeting to order. Minutes are not ready to approve.

Item 1. Oral History Project

K. Seethaler asked for comments on the oral history project. A. Gale felt the book was well organized. A. Leonhardt read through eight of the histories and was pleased with the way it was written. K. Harris felt it was professionally done. She said Rachel Gianni did what she had been asked to do by the Commission. It was well documented. J. Hicken appreciated that they had stayed within the budget and made adjustments to do so. He noted that R. Gianni was able to work with the people even when there were difficulties. H. Kelley added that there was a misunderstanding with those interviewed that the oral history would be transcribed verbatim. He thought the individual should be allowed to edit their interview. Overall, everyone was pleased with the results of the project.

Item 2. Providence and her People Update

At the last meeting, the Commission agreed to make a list of people who could help with different areas of updating the book. A. Gale had misunderstood the plan to make two separate books. The plan was to scan the previous volume and make it available and then print another book with history from 1974 to 2009. He did not feel that anyone would want a book without including the entire history of the town from the beginning. He recommends that we print just one book, and it be the complete history. He felt that the main things that have happened in the last 30 years were the installation of the sewer system, addition of a commercial area and growth. K. Harris said there were some items missed in the first book that could be added in the update. She noted that the Commission had not wanted to redo the old copy due to time and money constraints

K. Seethaler felt there is market for a book about the last 30 years. People living now want to know what is going on now, and people in the future will want to know what happened during this time period. There could be different sections in the new book. It would bring things up to date. He liked the concept of leaving the first book as it is and adding an update of the last 30 years

A. Leonhardt mentioned that the first volume was pretty thick, and if the last 30 years history was added to that it would make a very thick book and be quite expensive. If you only had the 30 year history by itself, it shouldn't be thicker than a songbook.

A. Gale wanted to take a vote, but J. Hicken said they had voted on this earlier, and then made a presentation to City Council on what he thought was the direction the entire group wanted to go.

J. Hicken has wondered how we can make this book exciting to people. He spoke to a man named John Alley, who is an expert in this area. He asked Mr. Alley if he could make any suggestions about how to make the book interesting. Mr. Alley suggested that we find controversial issues and tell how they affect the public. Tell it using the people's point of view. Was the growth intentional, or did it just happen? Humanize each project – who it affected, who carried the ball, what difference did it make? Show everyone that was involved, conflict and how it was overcome. Personal experiences could be used. He thought the oral histories we have collected could be a treasure trove to use in the book.

J. Hicken asked Mr. Alley if he could recommend a professional to help with the book. He suggested checking with the History Dept at USU to see if any Masters students are available to help. He also suggested Audrey & Ken Godfrey, Bob Parsons, and Maurine Ward. J. Hicken contacted Maurine Ward, who lives in Hyrum, and she said this was not her area.

M. Olsen felt the Commission should ask Ken Braegger about editing the book. He is qualified and capable. Kathy Baker said she has asked him, and he turned her down. A. Leonhardt said maybe K. Braegger was too close to this to be objective. J. Hicken agreed since K. Braegger has lived his whole life here and has served as mayor too.

K. Harris said the decision first is what kind of book to have. A. Gale felt that using a person not familiar with the City would take the heart out of the book. S. Bankhead noted that using local people can cause hurt feelings because no matter who you talk to, you get a different opinion. The City Council wants to know the approximate cost of the project. There will be three budget years to draw from. Most writers charge \$25/hr.

J. Hicken felt we should use an outside person to get a more objective opinion. He thought the interviews should be highlighted in the book. K. Seethaler noted that the interviews were done by people who live outside the City, and they did a good job.

K. Harris wanted to resolve the first issue about what type of book to have. A. Leonhardt felt the City would sell more copies if the book was smaller. He suggested we contact a person like Ken Godfrey, who did a very good biography of Junior Miller, and have him write the book highlighting the last 30 years.

K. Harris suggested we ask Ken Godfrey to come and talk to the Commission about the possibility of updating each of the sections in the old book to include happenings of the past 30 years. She mentioned that Wellsville's history was written similarly to our last volume – including the same type of subjects and the history from the beginning to now.

K. Seethaler stated that perhaps we need to re-evaluate the project, and go back to the City Council with a different idea. He wondered if the price would limit people from purchasing the book. H. Kelley said many people buy the books for their kids. K. Harris suggested the two books could be offered as a gift set. H. Kelley said if you get one of either book, you don't have the complete story of the town. S. Bankhead said we have

not had any response or interest in the book from newsletter articles asking for help. A. Leonhardt felt that publicizing the sesquicentennial will help

K. Baker asked about the costs for scanning the old book. The nice thing about digitizing the book is that we don't have to print 1000 or even 100 copies at a time. We can do them as needed.

A. Gale was sorry that he missed the idea of doing two books when it was discussed. J. Hicken reminded him that the Commission felt it would just be too difficult to redo the first book. A. Gale noted that there is a different feeling in our community than when he moved here in 1962. People were much more community oriented. He doesn't think that feeling can be brought back. J. Hicken hoped we could help build community spirit.

K. Harris thought we should bring in a copy of the old book and see how difficult it would be to add information to each section to update it. A. Leonhardt said there are generations of people living here who were raised here or who have parents who were raised here who would be interested in this book. J. Hicken said he hoped that we could create an attitude of appreciating the way the City is now – we can look back at the diversity, economy, etc. and see how great it is now. It can never go back to the way it was, but we can highlight the way things are now and the marvelous people who live here. He felt that if we could get the right person to write the book, it could be a fun book and good reading.

H. Kelley suggested we contact businesses for funding support. He commented that \$80,000 was raised for the Veterans Memorial from individuals without help from any large group. H. Kelley agreed that there are some things that could be changed or deleted from the old book. K. Harris said things like leadership of wards could be put in an appendix without commentary. K. Baker asked what the Commission felt was missing in the first volume. K. Harris explained that many felt the north side of town was not covered as well as the south. Areas, such as sports, were not as detailed as they could have been.

K. Seethaler felt that if we go back and delete or change things in the previous book, we will hurt feelings. K. Harris mentioned that history is out of date once it is printed. You try to appeal to citizens and give them a sense of pride in their community.

A. Leonhardt asked that we get an unbiased person to help with the book. He asked that we get Ken Godfrey to come talk to the Commission.

MOTION by K. Harris that we bring in a copy of the book and ask the Godfreys to come and talk to the Commission. SECOND by H. Kelley. All in favor. J. Hicken will contact them.

The next scheduled meeting is Tuesday, January 30, 2007. Discussed other possible dates the Commission could meet before that. Jay will ask the Godfreys if they are available on Dec. 5th or 6th at 6:00 pm.

MOTION by K. Harris to adjourn the meeting. SECOND by A. Leonhardt. All in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

K. Baker mentioned that Councilman Trent Rasmussen has some great ideas for the sesquicentennial. K. Harris said to look at the way Wellsville just celebrated their sesquicentennial. They had activities all during the year. This is for the City Council to decide, not the responsibility of the Commission.

Karl Seethaler, Chairman

Brenda Nelson, Secretary