## COTTONWOOD HEIGHTS HISTORIC COMMITTEE MEETING

## WEDNESDAY, April 13, 2022, 5:30 P.M. Held at CH City Hall

ATTENDANCE:

Members: Beverly Beckstead, Don Cannon, Jerry Christensen, Gayle Conger. Jessica Despain (via Zoom), Jim Kichas, Ken Verdoia (via Zoom), Carol Woodside

Staff: Ellen Birrell, City Council Representative (via Zoom), Ann Eatchel, Culture Mgr., Caroline Whitmore, Culture Coordinator

WELCOME/CALL TO ORDER

Jim welcomed the group (both physical and virtual attendance) and called the meeting to order.

MINUTES APPROVAL

The March 9, 2022, Meeting Minutes were unanimously approved by motion and second.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

COUNCIL & CITY UPDATE

Ann Eatchel reminded the group, because of the Pandemic, 2019 was the last year an **Easter Egg Hunt** was held in CH, so people are looking forward to this year’s event. It should be a good event, as it will include activities for teenagers (13 to 15 years old), as well as younger children, and hopefully the weather will be nice! The **Arts Council** is moving forward with the plan for their sculpture of a **Cottonwood Heights Leaf** (a 5’x6’ Leaf with a 3’-4’ Stem, which will sit on a 5’x 6’ Rock). Ann has presented the idea to the City Council, which they accepted. It is planned that the display will be installed in about a month, after which an announcement to the public will be made. The **Arts Council** is very excited to have this two-year project this far along. Also, on July 8th-16th, the **Arts Council** will be presenting the play **Willie Wonka**. Ann invited the group to be sure to attend.

**Old Mill Rumors**. Following up on previous rumors, Jim has sent an email to our group explaining if anything does happen regarding the Old Mill, it will be a lengthy project. Several reasons for this are, (1) No one has yet submitted a proposal to tear down the Old Mill. (2) If such a proposal is submitted, it would be a year-long project just to get the required proposals. (3) The Old Mill is on a Federal historic site, which is sensitive land. (4) There would be a lot of red tape to be negotiated to meet city planning requirements. (5) A suggestion was made the old Mill would be a lovely façade for a park.

If any of the above does happen, and changes are made, the historic committee would be involved with making sure there is a plaque or monument recognizing the Old Mill. Also, for our committee to become involved, CH City would have to own the property, which is not the case at this time. **After discussion, it was suggested,** **as a committee, we do not react, we just keep an eye on this situation and react when we feel it is appropriate to react. Ann assured us she will check on the meetings held concerning the Old Mill Area and keep us up to date if anything changes regarding the status of the Old Mill**.

GENERAL UPDATES

Butlerville Days & Spring Walk

The Spring Walk this year will be held in conjunction with Butlerville Days. Gayle and Jessica are working with Ronna, from the Trails Committee, on the Spring Walk planning. The people who will be included on the walk is under discussion, as Ann has mentioned the CH City Council said they would like to be included on the walk this year. Ann will confirm potential dates for the walk, after checking with the Council. Once she has heard from them, she will report back so plans can be finalized.

Veterans Monument

Ann said CH City wants our ideas about a Monument, and an elaborate display is not anticipated, but the display should be visible from the street. Jim has taken the ideas which have been discussed concerning a potential Veterans Monument in the city and distilled them into two suggestions.

**Background**. Ken commented, in 2020 this memorial project was brought to our attention by the city. The project that was discussed at that time was to be (1) simple in execution, (2) easily placed in the community, and (3) a project that would add value no matter where it was placed. As we’ve looked at this, one of the locations that has presented itself was the quadrangle area space just outside of City Hall. The flags lend themselves to erect a small and thoughtful recognition to those men and women who have served in the military, as well as first-responders, from generations long before we were the City of CH. This location takes on additional significance, as the City of CH keeps its flags illuminated and in full-staff 24-7 and we thought this was indicative of a veteran’s service.

**Proposal #1**. A Veterans Park monument located in the open space along Bengal Blvd. between the Brighton HS tennis courts and the Guthrie Skate Park. Construction of a monument here would require coordination and collaboration with Canyons School District, as the land is currently owned by the school district. This location could be a *gathering spot* (perhaps in the form of a Peace Garden) for veterans and their families. Preliminary conversations indicate there may be interest in pursuing this plan and the high school students could be involved. This could possibly be a fundraiser for the school. Cost would be an issue; however, potential funding may be available. **Jerry and Don will take the lead on researching Proposal #1.**

**Proposal #2**. A smaller memorial plaque situated near the flags on the City Hall campus with language that speaks to a (general not specific) recognition of the service of *all veterans and first responders* from Cottonwood Heights. Discussion pointed out that, as on Proposal #1, cost could be an issue and fundraisers may have to be held or specific donors approached. **Ken will take the lead and get parameters for Proposal #2.**

**Jim summarized: Our suggestion is a veteran’s monument that doesn’t necessarily have to be small but should be located on the grounds of City Hall near the flags.**

COMMITTEE WORKING GROUP UPDATES

Committee Archives. Jim did have time to go to City Hall and work with the records in our storage closet. He is getting the records grouped into proper record collections so we can begin the work of photo identification and selecting the things we want to digitize and put online. When he finishes this preliminary archivable work, he will draft people to help him do some identification work. There are some great photos that are completely unidentified. We want to get some context around them and get them out in the community.

Gayle has some electronic information she wants to get in the files and asked about the electronic format she should use. Jim said via a hard drive would be best. After this meeting Jim will give Gayle the information she needs to transfer her information. Gayle and Carol have inventoried the records they have in their possession. The next step is to get them to the closet at City Hall. Beverly has a collection that needs reviewing. We will work on her collection next.

Historical Preservation.

Jim gave a brief report, saying the Historical Preservation industry is active this month. He has information on upcoming meetings that he will be glad to share with people who are interested. He will forward emails with this information.

Oral Histories.

Ken reported one thing he has learned is getting the video from the camera into a computer is one thing but getting information into a computer and uploading into our archives requires Jim and Ken to work together. They haven’t been in the same place at the same time recently. When Ken returns from California, he and Jim will be getting together to work on making the transition to upload our videos of Mayors Cullimore and Peterson into the digital archive. Once they get that complete, they will move onto the next series of interviews. Jim interjected, that will be the first actual multi-media record to go into our digital archives.

New Committee Member.

Jerry mentioned that Bruce Lubeck, a newly retired 3rd District Court Judge, is interested in becoming a member of the Historic Committee. He lives east on Bengal Blvd. near the cemetery. He has had an interesting career, including being the legal counsel for Ted Bundy. Jim said he would be pleased to chat with Bruce and tell him about our committee. Ann recommended that Bruce can go online and fill in an application.

Commendation for Jerry and Don.

Ken commended both Jerry and Don for their vision and their work in advancing a significant and ambitious Veterans’ Project. This is a very good cause and the fact that the schools are integrated into the process is excellent! We all appreciate the thought and work they have put in thus far and look forward to their thought and vision going forward. The group’s feeling is that this is a bond that needs strengthening, especially among the youth.

ADJOURN: There being no further business, by motion and second, the meeting adjourned at 6:30 pm.

NEXT MEETING: **Wednesday May 11, 2022 - 5:30 p.m. at City Hall.**