## COTTONWOOD HEIGHTS HISTORIC COMMITTEE MEETING

## WEDNESDAY, October 12, 2022, 5:30 P.M.

## 

ATTENDANCE:

Members: Beverly Beckstead, Jerry Christensen, Gayle Conger, Jessica Despain, Jim Kichas,

Ken Verdoia, Carol Woodside

Absent: Don Cannon, Ellen Birrell

Staff: Ann Eatchel, CH Culture Mgr.

Guest: Jolene Croasmun, *City Journals*

WELCOME/CALL TO ORDER

Jim welcomed the group and called the meeting to order.

MINUTES APPROVAL

The September 14, 2022, Meeting Minutes, having no corrections, were unanimously approved by motion and second.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Our guest, Jolene Croasmun from the publication *City* Journals, thanked the group for the invitation to attend the meeting. Her purpose is to learn more about our city. She is also curious about the history of some of the homes and the Old Mill. Her plan is to sit and listen!

CH CITY UPDATE

Jim asked Ann if there was an update from the city?

Art Sculptures

Ann responded the only update she has is the **art sculpture** is up and it has turned out better than anticipated. The artist bought old tools to create this display. We are thinking of changing the name of the **LEAF Display**, as it is art with nature *and* art with history, and these concepts both comprise the foundation on which CH City was built. She also reported the **Mori Plaque** is up. It was commented the display area for these sculptures is very nice, as there are benches and a table, the area is surrounded by a walkway, there is good visibility, and it is safe. We are all invited to go and look at these sculptures after this meeting.

SCHEDULED ITEMS DISCUSSION

City Hall Exhibit. Jim commented that he hoped everyone had been able to walk through and see the City Hall exhibit we have on display. He thanked the city for hosting the exhibit, and especially Ann and Jessica, for selecting the items and getting the display set up. Jim thinks it came together very well.

BVD Exhibit Theme. As they were putting the BVD display together, they began thinking ahead to having our next BVD display based around *schools.* It is felt the schools subject is an evergreen thing, and people are always interested in them.

Exhibit Takedown/Photo Identification. Jim reminded us, the exhibit takedown day will be November 16. He would like to make it a *committee heavy day* and have every committee member attend who can. He is particularly hoping that Gayle, Carol, and Bev will be available to help. Takedown will be very easy, and Jim hopes we can use some of the time to identify people and places on our unidentified photos. Jim will have his computer available, and he will start building out the metadata around the collections we have. ***Jim has blocked out Wednesday, November 16, 11:00 a.m. to 4 p.m. for this project****.* We don’t have to go the full time, but just work until we have accomplished a good amount and then we can talk about doing it again if we didn’t finish the project.

Audio Recording. Ken asked if it would be possible for him to bring his small digital audio recorder and record the conversations as they take place. Carol was asked to transcribe the recording (Photo X conversation, Photo Y conversation, etc.). That way we will have a more durable record. We will need a room reserved. Jim concluded by saying we would get an official attendance headcount at our next meeting. However, he asked us to block the time out on our calendars now.

Monument Proposal. In the interest of time, the next item is one we may need to table until the next meeting. It is continuation of the discussion from our last meeting about the monument proposal that Don had brought forward. Jim mentioned there have been discussions by CH City about this topic and it has been suggested **the monument for** **Gold Star Families** **be on City Hall grounds.** Several cities around the state are putting up monuments of a similar design to honor people. If this is the case, it would impact designs we have been talking about. So, this is still a thing in motion, and he thinks we will have to wait and see how things come together.

Ann has given the information to Tim. After doing some research, Ann says the negative side to the project will be expensive, there will be many restrictions, maintenance rules will apply, and the Gold Star rules must be followed. Sandy City has recently installed this type of monument. It was decided to wait until we talk to Don, and hear back from the city, so we will table this until the next meeting.

Budget

Our fiscal year runs July 1 through June 30. We are now a quarter of the way through this fiscal year and Jim wants to have a quick conversation about our committee budget. One thing that has already passed our budget is the renewal of the **Preservica Software** that we are using for the digital archive. Jim and Ken have talked about other purchases such as, portable drives and they may propose getting additional terabyte storage to back up all the digital information we are creating. Jim and Ken will discuss these needs. One other thing Jim has thought of expending funds on is **more durable, portable panels** **for use in exhibits**. He asked the group for their suggestions. There being none, he said if we think of anything else, please let him know.

The question was asked if anything is needed for the National Register application. Gayle responded **if we want to pay for it, perhaps a plaque, but the person who owns the house usually pays for that, as none of the grants will fund this expenditure**. Jim concluded by saying there is no hurry, and we will revisit the topic. We should let Jim know if we think of anything else.

WORKING GROUP UPDATES

Committee Archives Update. Jim reported that we really haven’t done much on the archives. He is looking forward to November 16 for us to really hit it hard. Before then, Jim will be floating the complete set of Intensive Level Surveys that we received from our consultant, and we will continue to add to our digital archives. Jim will send out an email when those are available.

Historical Preservation Update. Gayle reported we received the Evaluation Worksheet from the State. From the seventeen properties on which we did Intensive Level Surveys, there were five that are *highly likely for nomination to National Register. They are the two Despain houses, the Dr. Dull/Winn house, the Badger house over on Ft. Union, and the Zitting house.* The group thought the choices were very interesting, as there are big stories aligned with all of them. Jim thanked Gayle.

CLG Question. Jim had a question for the purpose of planning. Do the Grand Rounds for the CLG usually close in January? Gayle responded we will be eligible for the next grand round which will be announced in January 2023, and we will have about 3 weeks to apply. Gayle added, if we want to apply for a grant in the upcoming round, we need to get busy. She reminded us, we will be looking at doing a Reconnaissance Level Survey on some of these properties. However, if we want to go another way, we could do a **RLS on a subdivision**. Jim commented he thought the RLS on a subdivision sounds like an interesting project. Perhaps as part of our 11/16 Day activities we could look at that as a group.

Subdivision Study. Jim reminded us that **we all** are invited to the 11/16 get-together. The question was asked what we are looking for when we study subdivisions? The answer is **Historic Districts**. The comment was made that Historic Districts are complicated and difficult to pull off, as one thing that needs to be researched is local laws which requires certain things must be maintained. Jim is leaning toward a study of subdivisions, which would include date built, identify builder, and other information which gives a better sense of the history of the construction. Gayle added they would look at each individual house to determine if it meets the requirements of a *historic house*. Jim will take a closer look at the CLG and put it on the 11/16 meeting agenda. Gayle reminded us that the Code defines one of our responsibilities is to do a survey of all the houses built in a particular subdivision. Jim closed the topic by saying if we identify a project that meets the requirements, he thinks we should apply for funding.

Gayle reported she talked with Cory Jensen at the State. He told her as long as we have included enough subdivisions in our study, we are okay. Some towns only have one subdivision in the whole town. Our group thinks we have several subdivisions which would be appropriate age wise, etc. to be studied.

Oral Histories Update. Ken reported apologies are in order because between work and family weddings, he has been on the road for the last three months and has not been able to advance the interviews. However, he and Jim have had a conversation and would like to interview Gayle as the first seated interview on the Oral History Project**.** This is their approach because of two aspects, first her long-time residency, and second her being a long-time gate keeper of CH history. They plan to do one-hour interviews which are amenable to Gayle’s schedule, and wherever she is most comfortable (in her home or at City Hall). Ken will conduct the interview, but Jim has asked to sit in on the conversation.

**Gayle will be interviewed first, Carol will be interviewed second, and Beverly will be interviewed third.**

Redoing Old Recordings. There was some discussion, as Beverly thought she had already been interviewed. Ken and Jim have reviewed what has gone before and those first recordings were made for specific grants, using older technology, and they have not been preserved well. Therefore, it is felt they will need to be recorded again using Ken’s modern, professional, equipment and his journalism background. All recordings that are done at this time will be at a very high level which can then go into the digital archives to be preserved for perpetuity.

The issue is, we are not discrediting all that was done before, however old technology was used, and the stories were told in a fashion that we cannot make use of them with context of where people lived, when they lived there, and what their activities were. So, we want to structure the interviews into a conversation that will be enjoyed, as well as preserving the required information.

ADDITIONAL BUSINESS ITEMS

CH Historic Committee’s Reputation

**Our Committee’s Success Is Held in High Esteem**. Jim brought up the topic of Our Committee. He stated that our committee is very well known. *Preservation Utah* has been working with other cities, and holding us up as an example of how to really do this work right, how you apply for a CLG, etc. Jim has been trying to contact our counterpart in Holladay but has not been able to reach him yet.

**Sharing Knowledge & Experience**. Jim has also recently been put in touch with a person in Millcreek, which has recently been made a new city. They are creating a Historic Commission, which will function much as our Historic Committee. They are building a beautiful new six-storey tall city hall. Last week Jim met for almost two hours with one of the Assistant City Managers, the City Recorder, and two of the people who sit on the Commission, just to talk about our committee, what we do, how we have done it so well. Jim gave them a copy of our Deed of Gifts so they would have a model of what that looks like, and other things that might help them and give them a head start as they are doing their work. Jim is of the opinion that we all benefit from sharing our knowledge and helping each other out, because cities are just artificial boundary lines. The history that happened here in CH was just as relevant in Holladay, Millcreek, Draper, and Sandy. Midvale and Big Cottonwood Canyon are also trying to get something like our group started. They are very impressed by what we are doing with cutting-edge concepts like digital archives. Jim assured them we are always available to give information to help them in their endeavors. We feel sharing information is important and the interest shown by these other communities will be good for all of us.

Jim concluded by asking our guest, Jolene Croasmun, if she had any further questions. She responded yes and her questions follow.

Jolene’s Questions.

**Explain the Lobby Display**. The panels are meant to lead you into the Digital Archives, so they give you background and QR codes for the Digital Archives. Surrounding them are actual historic photographs of Butler School and Union School including class photos, and images of the schools themselves. This content is available in our digital archives. The hope is that people will see this and click into the digital archives and see even more.

**Where Will You Store the Oral History Recordings**. When you talk about the Oral History Recordings, where will you store that information? Ken responded we have a Cottonwood Heights Website set up for digital information. It already is the repository for mayoral interviews, among other things.

**Describe The ILS Homes Study**. Are there pictures of these homes somewhere? The answer is these pictures will be stored on our digital archive under Historic Preservation Collection, Intensive Level Surveys which are very in-depth research files including information about individual properties including , pictures, original owners, names of people who have lived in those homes over time, and the construction materials the homes are made from. These files contain pretty much everything you would ever want to know about the homes in the survey.

**Monuments.** How do you envision handling monuments? At this point our ideas are very conceptual. CH City is very, very, interested in honoring veterans appropriately. For several years they have been considering alternatives. So, once a decision is made, what they do, and when they do it, they want it to be done right.

Adjourn

Jim closed the meeting by saying the end-of-year Holidays are almost upon us. For now, we look forward to the November meeting and the November 16 Committee Workday and asked for a motion to adjourn.

Motion. Ken stated the caveat of all the work needing to be done between now and November, he moved that the meeting be adjourned. There being no further business, by motion and second, the meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m. Interested parties were invited to view the new monuments on City Hall grounds.