## COTTONWOOD HEIGHTS HISTORIC COMMITTEE MEETING

## WEDNESDAY January 11, 2023 5:30 P.M.

## 

ATTENDANCE:

Members: Beverly Beckstead, Don Cannon, Gayle Conger, Jerry Christensen, Jessica Despain,

Jim Kichas, Bruce Lubeck, Ken Verdoia, Carol Woodside

Absent: Ellen Birrell,

Staff: Ann Eatchel, Anna Kelsh.

WELCOME/CALL TO ORDER

Chairman, Jim Kichas, welcomed the group and called the meeting to order.

MINUTES APPROVAL

The November 9, 2022, Meeting Minutes, having been circulated to the group and having received a minor correction (adding Ann Eatchel as attending), were unanimously approved by motion and second.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

CH CITY UPDATE

Ann Eatchel gave the CH City update. She reported that **Butlerville Days** will be held the last weekend in July, (Thursday through Saturday, July 27 – 29, 2023). The **Film Festival** will be held at Butler School, July 21, 2023, starting at 4:30 p.m. There will be three films shown, and it is free of charge.

SCHEDULED DISCUSSION ITEMS

Jim introduced the discussion items and working group updates by telling the group these two items in his discussion may be blended.

**Monument Recommendation**. At our last meeting it was decided that a group would be assigned to come up with a recommendation regarding the monument. Jim asked for a report as to where we are with that recommendation and how work is proceeding.

Ann handed out to the group monument description information which had been given to her by Don. The information described a 14-foot Monument, at a cost of $30K for the monument and the crane. Ann said she thinks it is amazing what Don has been able to do. However, any expenditure of this magnitude must go out to bid and we need to receive at least 3 bids. So, our choices are: 1. Go out for bids, or 2. Go with Goldstar. Discussion ensued. Whatever recommendation we come up with tonight, Ann will take it to the City Manager for presentation to the City Counsel for possible inclusion in our committee’s budget.

**Monument Cost Discussion**. The Goldstar idea was eliminated, as it is too expensive ($55K) and not “personal” enough. Regarding the monument size, cost and composition, Don suggested we obtain rock from Big & Little Cottonwood Canyons to construct the monument, and to have that fact recognized on the monument. Bruce and Don are working on this possibility. **Message**. Jim wants our group to have some control over the message on the monument. It should be a very meaningful and lasting message from our Historic Committee to CH City.

**Committee Discussion**. Ken said he fully endorses Don’s concept and is ready to vote. However, he agrees with Jim that we should have control over the wording to be used. We owe the city some sense of the wording we want to include. We will not honor individual names; we will honor people with collective wording. Also, if we want to include granite from one of the canyons, we need to figure that into our budget. Bruce and Don are working on the concept of getting stone from the canyons and they reminded us, if we go that route, a mining permit will be needed. These are all important considerations, as we want this to be a comprehensive proposal from our entire committee.

Ann has already sent notification to Tim that we are discussing this topic, and our timing is good, as the CH Budget Committee is just now *looking* at the budget. She suggests we still have time to give our ideas. Jim thanked Don and the sub-committee for putting in time and effort on this. He senses that we are all in agreement about how we want to proceed, however we need specificity regarding concepts and costs. The following motion summarizes our discussion.

**Monument Motion: The Historic Committee agreed in general we want to move forward with Don’s description of a 14-foot monument with an approximate cost of $30K - $40K. However, before we proceed, we need specificity regarding concepts and costs, and we must wait to hear back from CH City regarding the project before we move forward.**

Ann will adjust the verbiage for accuracy before it is forwarded to Tim and the Budget Committee.

**Setting 2023 Calendar**

Jim introduced the next topic of discussion by saying that since it is January, he would like to discuss our calendar for the year. Every year there are certain things we are obligated to do as a committee, and he would like to get us all on the *same page,* so we have a framework from which to work.

Things to Keep an Eye On. **Butlerville Days Exhibit**. Now that we have the dates, we need to be thinking about how we will proceed. We have talked about repurposing the **City Hall Foyer Exhibit** f**or BVD.** Ann responded that opportunity is always available. **Working Group Goals**. Any changes and opportunities here can be incorporated into our monthly updates.

**Old Mill Stone Monument Plaque Gift (1966)**. This monument was gifted to us by the Daughters of Utah Pioneers (DUPs), is sitting in Ann’s office. Jim has asked Ann if we can temporarily store it in our closet. The DUPs would like to see it put up somewhere near the Old Mill. Jim wants to read the message on the monument to confirm its accuracy. Ken suggested it would be nice if we could display it somewhere along a public walkway in proximity to the Old Mill. Jim said if the information on the plaque is accurate, he thinks displaying it along the trail near the Old Mill is a good idea. The plaque is made of heavy metal, and someone suggested displaying it on a rock cairn in view of the Old Mill, so its message makes the passerby think about the building. We do not need to solve this problem now. It should be added to our “things to do” list.

**Photo Identification Meetings**. Jim continued by reporting we had our Photo Identification Meeting in November which was very successful. He would like to continue with these meetings. Ken interjected the recording was delightful, as Gayle and Carol are a perfect “Kibitz Team.”

**Open & Public Meetings Act**. He went on to say we have learned that because of the *Open & Public Meetings Act,* we must be conscious of having a quorum together for our meetings. We are allowed to label these as *working sessions* where no decision-making is taking place. It has been suggested we decide on a handful of dates and push them out altogether. Jim will look at his calendar and we will set these dates in February, March and April, timing which will take us through the first quarter of 2023.

**The following first quarter 2023 dates have been set for Photo Identification Meetings:**

**February 22nd from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm,**

**March 22 from 20:00 am to 12:00 pm**

**April 19 from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm.**

Jim would like to schedule a time with Ann to go to city hall and start work again in the HC closet. This project has been delayed and the closet is the next great source of information for our digital archives.

WORKING GROUP UPDATES

Jim asked Gayle to give a report on the Historic Preservation Office Grant that we are pursuing.

**Gayle’s Historic Preservation Office Report**

**Subdivision Grant.** Gayle reported that she and Jim had a meeting with the State Historic Preservation Office manager, and they have agreed that we can go ahead with our $22,500 grant request. They think our project will be very good and after some other suggestions, a few changes were made to which subdivisions would be surveyed.

1. These Grants Are Going to be Competitive. They will not be a “first come first served” situation as they have been in the past.
2. The grant recipient will have to prove their need for the funding**.** In the past they have had a lot of local certified governments who have been inactive, become active, just to apply. This makes it difficult for those who have been active and want to do bigger projects to be considered. Getting extra money now, for larger projects, often depends on where one ranks on the survey. Gayle feels we should be in a good position regarding these changes. This will give us information to set up districts.

**Subdivision Map**. Gayle showed the group a map which shows all the subdivisions built in the 1950’s, and 1960’s. Several of these subdivisions are now located in our city. The comment was made that we were “The post-war boom community.” She pointed out three of the very first subdivisions in the area, Virginia Hills Drive, Steffenson Heights, and Greenfield Village. **She said what they have decided is to start surveying in specific older areas, as they may be the first to be impacted by changes**.

**Rules for Using Federal Funds**. Gayle explained any time federal funds are used, an impact study must be performed on the area first. Part of that study involves historic resources. So, houses, buildings, whatnot must be surveyed before the project begins. We left out the Mori property from this study, as the Mori property falls under the Auburn Heights Subdivision.

**Funding Request**. Jim responded he and Gayle met with Ann and Tim just before November to discuss this. Tim was supportive. It is going to require a little bit of budget adjustment (Ann has emailed Jim regarding this funding). Jim commented basically this is more than we requested in the CLG funding requests. Normally we are capped out at $7,000, and we are asking for $11,500 with an equal match coming from CH City. Our plan is that these funds would be used exclusively for a person to do the Reconnaissance Study work. We have done our due diligence

**Historic Districts & Are plaques needed?** Ken commented that the first post-war subdivisions were built in this area. Do we put up a plaque or something? Jim responded: We did write into the grant the rationale for it was that this would give us actionable information to do that kind of work or set up historic districts. So, I think that is absolutely a reason why we need good reconnaissance level information. However, that is not part of this grant. This is purely to do what we’ve seen before, research which will then produce Intensive Level Survey data which can then be used for Historic Register designations that we, as a committee deem appropriate.

**What Kind of Report Will We Get?** A question was asked, “What kind of a report will we get back?” Gayle responded on the last project like this we did, we got a whole book back as a report. They provided a basic history of each neighborhood, which contained one or two photographs of each house.

**Do We Need to Contact Every Home?** Discussion ensued regarding whether this is invasive and will we have to contact every home? It is not invasive. It is all done from the street regarding photographs etc. We do not need to notify every household. It was suggested that we give the residents a copy of their report.

**IMPORTANCE OF STUDY**

Seventy years of information can be obtained from this type of survey. Our results will be listed online, and residents can be pointed in that direction for information. It will also be helpful to the committee. The deadline for submission of this study is January 24. The timing of today’s meeting is good, as after discussion, Jim would like the committee to vote on a motion pertaining to this topic. A proposal has already been approved by the city and is ready to go. Ann will send a copy to Gayle.

**MOTION**

Subdivision Survey Funding Motion: By motion and second**,** the Historic Committee agreed in general to designate $11,500 tohire a person to do the Reconnaissance Study work on subdivisions within the CH City boundaries.

Now the motion has been approved, Jim will move forward with getting it submitted to the State Historic Preservation Office. Jim commented, it sounds like we have good support from that office and he joins Gayle in hoping our request “sails through” its approval.

**Oral History Report**

Jim called on Ken to report on Oral History.

Ken reported we did complete our first two oral histories and learned a lot of lessons. Our goal is to do the next two, hopefully before summer, before BVD and also to transcribe the conversation around the photographs that we did in November. That was a very enlightening conversation. It is coded now and we know exactly how the comments align with each photograph. So, I’m really looking forward to that being an audio asset that we can use online as well. Even if we just take part of the transcript and put it as the cutline of a photograph.

Jim said he thinks that is a great idea. We can take the actual digital audio, the full conversation, and put it on a digital archive, and if we decide this is a nice administrative record for the committee, we can just put it as a private item that we can see but the public doesn’t have access to. Ken said he thinks so, because just seeing the picture really doesn’t work without the video. Ken thinks this will provide great cut lines and great information to go with the photographs. Ken asked if there were any questions or comments for this working group before he moves us back to our broader conversation of 2023 overall.

Our Proposal Being Reviewed. Gayle commented that we have been notified by the State Preservation Office that they will be reviewing our National Register Nomination on January 19, 2023. The group was thrilled to hear this news. Gayle said she has a link if anyone wants to see more information. She also said this is a positive sign, as if the State approves it, it is a really good sign!

**Our Top Priorities**

Jim returned the discussion to our 2023 top priorities which are:

1. CLG Grant (to be submitted in January and hopefully approved.)
2. Monthly Digital Archive Working Sessions (Jim will be scheduling out in January with the aim to get set for February, March & April).
3. Jim will schedule time with CH City to actually work in the closet with our records. He would like to do a session a month. He will keep the committee informed if there is something he needs help with. All are invited, but it is pretty much analyzing documents and is not very collaborative at this point. He will keep us informed of how this goes.
4. In February, start planning for BVD. What we want the exhibit to look like? Include Walking Tours again? Old Mill Monument Placement? City Hall Exhibit. Veterans Monument. Oral History recordings and transcriptions (have completed by July 1). It was suggested a great day to unveil our Veterans Monument would be Veterans Day 2023.

Jim will draft this information into a working document that we can have on hand in our binders. It will serve as a Road Map for the Year.

**Neighboring City Interest in Our Committee**

Ann commented Holladay City may be starting work on a Historic Book. They have had conversations with Jim regarding our committee’s activities. Ken commented that he and Jim will continue with their off-cycle meetings with surrounding communities (Holladay, Midvale, Brighton, Millcreek City), who are interested in forming their own historic committees. If we provide a collaborative connection with these cities, we would all benefit and it has potential.

Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.