

1 Providence Historic Preservation Commission Meeting
2 January 19, 2010
3 6:00 p.m.

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5 THOSE ATTENDING: Jay Hicken, Adrian Gale, Alma Leonhardt, Marie Olsen, Kaye
6 Lyn Harris, Hoyt Kelley, Karl Seethaler
7 Minutes taken by Brenda Nelson

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9 Motion by J. Hicken to approve minutes of November 17, 2009; Second by K. Harris.
10 All in favor.

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12 **Item 1. Discussion on grant applications**

13 B. Nelson reported that the State History CLG grant application is due on February 12.
14 She contacted Korral Broschinsky, who did the previous reconnaissance survey, and
15 asked if she was still doing intensive level surveys. She replied that she was and would
16 be glad to help on our grant. Lisa Duskin-Goede also sent information to K. Seethaler
17 about grant possibilities through the National Trust Preservation Fund. These
18 applications are due Feb. 1.

19 The Commission discussed the idea of plaques for historic homes. J. Hicken noted that
20 he had seen signs in Alabama in front of historic homes that were beautiful. A. Leonhardt
21 questioned why we would need to do more intensive level surveys. B. Nelson explained
22 that the surveys give more detailed information about a building including all owners,
23 type of architecture, information on when the home was built, and any other historical
24 information. These surveys are kept at the City Office. H. Kelley liked the idea of
25 putting plaques by the homes.

26 K. Seethaler asked if there were any other ideas for the grant application. H. Kelley felt
27 that our projects should not be dictated by grants. He would like to see a park in
28 Providence Canyon. There are great hiking trails in the canyon and a park would bring
29 more people there. K. Harris agreed that the area by the snowmobile parking lot would
30 be a great place for a park. A. Leonhardt added that the road is not very good. He noted
31 that at one time a group was interested in getting the slag out of the canyon, and the
32 project would have included repairing the road. But in the end, they ran out of money,
33 and the project was not completed. K. Seethaler wondered how we could tie a City park
34 into history. B. Nelson stated that a park would more likely be funded by the RAPZ tax
35 than this type of grant.

36 J. Hicken wondered if we could use a feasibility study for a museum on the Bartschi
37 blacksmith shop in a grant application. He spoke with Brent Bartschi today and there are
38 still problems in getting this site. J. Hicken asked him to consider selling the whole lot,
39 not just the shop. The City could use the big shop. B. Bartschi still wants to hold on to
40 the property for now.

41
42 **Item 2. Discussion on museum possibilities**

43 A. Leonhardt reported that after the last meeting he spoke to the owners of the old tithing
44 house located at the corner of Main and 100 North. The owner is Peggy Craner and she
45 lives in River Heights. He explained to her that we are interested in putting together a
46 museum and since that home has historical value, he asked if they would be interested in

1 selling either just the house or the house and lot together. Mrs. Cranney said they had
2 been thinking of selling the home, and the renters are interested in buying it. The
3 Cranneys would much rather see it turned into a museum. A. Leonhardt wondered about
4 purchasing the home and moving it to the lot behind the Old Rock Church. It would
5 make a wonderful museum. Discussion continued on the size of the lot, the size of the
6 house, and whether or not it would be better to purchase the entire lot rather than try to
7 move the house.

8 B. Nelson stated that she had spoken with Skarlet Bankhead, City Administrator, about
9 the idea of using the RAPZ tax for a museum. S. Bankhead said they haven't decided on
10 a project yet for the RAPZ tax, and the applications are due in the spring. She said the
11 Council would have to decide whether or not the museum would be a good project to
12 apply for RAPZ funding for. A. Gale felt that moving the building would lose its
13 historical significance. A. Leonhardt noted that putting it by the Old Rock Church is
14 keeping it with a historical site. A. Gale explained that the building itself isn't very big,
15 but could be added on to. A. Leonhardt said this would be easier to purchase than the
16 Bartschi property, which is tied up in family concerns. He wondered if we applied for the
17 RAPZ tax money for the museum if we could we still apply to the State for a grant on the
18 same project. Discussion on what the possible price of the lot and house would be. A.
19 Leonhardt felt it would be at least \$150,000 for both. Moving the house would be
20 extremely difficult. We don't know what type of foundation it has. The current location
21 is a very good one for a museum – visible from the road and very accessible. B. Nelson
22 wondered if this could be tied into the 501c3 foundation they are trying to form for the
23 Old Rock Church, which would allow people to donate to help purchase it. This is
24 always a possibility.

25 A. Gale asked what should be done next. A. Leonhardt said he will go back to the
26 Cranney's and see how soon they would be willing to sell the house and a possible asking
27 price. J. Hicken stated that the CLGG grant just doesn't fit with the museum. He felt we
28 should do 10 more intensive level surveys and then try for the RAPZ tax money for the
29 museum. Commission discussed the homes that could be used for the intensive level
30 surveys. H. Kelley suggested the old Stirland home. A. Leonhardt said one of the oldest
31 buildings in town is sitting next to the old Thair Allen place on 200 North and 100 East.
32 It was an old log cabin but is now used as a shed. A. Leonhardt wondered about moving
33 that old cabin to the lot where we hope to create a museum. B. Nelson added that the
34 freight office of the UIC railroad would be another fun addition to that lot. It is now part
35 of the décor of the Willows Miniature golf place in Providence. J. Hicken stated that the
36 rock garage on the corner of 100 North and 200 West is also a very unique building.

37 A. Leonhardt explained that he recently learned that the building being used as a shed on
38 Norm Leonhardt's property is really a very early post office building. It even has "Post
39 Office" written on the side. Norm Leonhardt recently passed away. A. Leonhardt will
40 speak to his children about acquiring that building.

41

42 K. Harris suggested that we need something that denotes the historic district. There are
43 no signs and most people don't even know the district exists. She suggested we have
44 signs attached to the current street signs that denote it as part of the historic district. A.
45 Leonhardt felt having a sign on a post by the pioneer monument outlining the district
46 would be a good idea. This is a logical place for such a sign. K. Harris wanted the signs

1 attached to the street signs. Since this is a large area, it may be better to add signage to
2 the perimeter only. A. Leonhardt wondered if the signs could be made locally. Would
3 this qualify for a grant? J Hicken summed up the discussion as being threefold: 1)
4 identify 10 homes for intensive level surveys; 2) create markers that would attach to the
5 street signs identifying the historic district; and 3) create a sign that shows the map of the
6 district and perhaps has some flyers that people can pick up.

7 J. Hicken stated that he would be happy to research the signs immediately since we are
8 short on time. B. Nelson asked if we should get approval from the City Council first
9 since the street signs belong to the City. The Council meets next Tuesday; could we get
10 on the agenda. K. Harris would like “historic district” on the sign and an outline of a
11 building, preferably the Old Rock Church. J. Hicken said that might be a problem. B.

12 Nelson suggested putting a building shape, but not a particular building. H. Kelley
13 wondered about using a mountain on the sign. A. Leonhardt estimated that we would
14 need about 26 signs to do the perimeter. J. Hicken stated that historic signs are blue, and
15 maybe we should we make this one blue as well. K. Seethaler said that the Highway
16 Dept. sometimes will install signs indicating where a historic site is.

17 B. Nelson felt that if J. Hicken could get her the information, she could prepare the grant
18 application. She will contact K. Broschinsky about a bid for doing 10 surveys. If it is too
19 expensive, we could do just 5 surveys and the historic district signs.

20 J. Hicken will speak with Skarlet Bankhead about getting on the City Council agenda for
21 next week. A. Leonhardt will speak with the Cranneys and also Council members about
22 the RAPZ tax application.

23 MOTION by K. Harris to go forward in applying for the State History CLG grant using
24 intensive level surveys and street signs outlining the historic district in the application.
25 Second by A. Leonhardt. All in favor.

27 **Item 3. Discussion on the creation of an Old Rock Church foundation.**

28 K. Seethaler reported that as far as the creation of the Old Rock foundation is concerned,
29 there hasn't been any further progress. They are trying to create a mission statement.

30 They hope to send out a questionnaire to the community. There is an increasing interest
31 in heritage. To define our city character, we need to keep these historic buildings. J.

32 Hicken stated that we need an opinion from the people of the city. Most people you talk
33 to are in favor of the Old Rock Church, but don't have money to put towards it. H.

34 Kelley asked if they should go after big grants. J. Hicken stated they are just looking for
35 local funding. K. Seethaler felt that there are people in the community who would give
36 larger amounts of money if they felt that there were many little donors as well. A. Gale
37 stated that this is one of the oldest buildings in the valley. A. Leonhardt agreed that it is
38 older than the temple and the university. That fact should be included in the flyer that
39 will go out to the public.

40 H. Kelley said that Dale Astle had pointed out that a study done at the university where
41 all the communities were visited concluded that Providence has a reputation of being a
42 forgotten city. J. Hicken didn't agree. K. Harris thought it was true – that many of the old
43 traditions have not continued here. That committee will meet again on Feb 16th at 11:00
44 a.m.

1 **Item 4 – Update on website.**

2 B. Nelson reported that she is still working with Sheri Ward, City Office Specialist, to get
3 some of the oral histories on the website. If any Commission members have something
4 they would like to see on the site, please let her know. H. Kelley noted that he would like
5 to get the article on the quarry written by Ken Braegger on the website. He will try to
6 arrange to get it.

7
8 Alma Leonhardt reported that he got a call from an old classmate, Kenneth Griffin, who
9 just got a copy of the new *Providence and Her People* book from Glade Davis. Other
10 members reported giving multiple copies to family members. J. Hicken said he would be
11 interested to know how the book sales were going. H. Kelley said Dennis Watkins had
12 not taken up his offer to sell the books at Kelley's store. A. Leonhardt said D. Watkins
13 had not brought any to sell at the City Office either

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15 Motion by K. Harris to adjourn; second by A. Leonhardt. All in favor.

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17 Next meeting is Feb 16th at 6:00 p.m.

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19 Meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

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Karl Seethaler, Chairman

Brenda Nelson, Secretary