

Elkins Historic Landmarks Commission

Minutes from the meeting of January 21, 2009

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m.

Members of the commission in attendance were Carol Schuler, Logan Smith, Phyllis Baxter, Suellen Gross and Ellen Spears.

Minutes were approved and filed electronically. The commission asked that a hard copy be brought to each meeting.

The treasurer's report was discussed and approved.

Heather Biola reported on the Kump House status at the City's Municipal Properties Committee meeting. The Kump House is still held by the bank until all of the family members take out personal property. Heather has applied for a grant that should be decided in February. The WV Division of Highways is planning to do some road widening at the intersection of Routes 33 and 219 (Randolph Avenue). Some of the Kump property will be needed and DOH will buy it. Heather suggested we research "Complete Streets," a study detailing how to obtain adequate drainage, curbing, trees, etc.

Suellen Gross handed the commission a written statement of her resignation from the EHLC. The motion was made by Ellen to accept Suellen's resignation and Phyllis seconded. Sadly, the motion was accepted.

Logan Smith volunteered to take over the duties of treasurer. Suellen will take a written statement to Mountain Valley Bank to get the signature cards changed from her name to Logan Smith's name. Carol Schuler's name will also be on the signature card so that two people can sign checks for EHLC.

EHLC needs to resolve the issue of the Weaver's Guild moving out. EHLC needs written notification of their vacating and the return of keys to the Darden House. EHLC also owes rent money that was paid in advance for the year.

EHLC will hold a work session at the Darden House on Wednesday, February 4th.

Melvin and Spinner have been checking the windows at the Darden House with Duffy Hoffman to assess their restoration needs. They discovered that the glass is bowed in the stained glass window in the front room.

Melvin said the glass is stressed in the window that he is currently working on in the small room on the second floor. He recommends not changing the glass until spring. He assured the commission that he wouldn't double bill us for damage. He will send a final bill when the work is completed.

Carol brought up the subject of repairs and maintenance work that is necessary at the Darden House. She has discussed the scope of work with Chris Knorr (SHPO). Chris was pleased with the scope of work that was on the work proposed by the contractor, Michael Marrs. The cost quote for his scope of work is approximately \$17,500.00. (The estimate is attached.)

A motion was made and seconded to send a letter to the City of Elkins requesting funds to do the repairs on the Darden House based on the estimate received from Michael Marrs. Ellen will write a draft letter and final wording in the letter is to be determined by the full commission.

Carol Schuler added EHLC to the City Council agenda for its February 19th meeting. The EHLC website will be shown to council members.

There was a general discussion about the need to find new commissioners for EHLC. It was agreed that each of us should explore several people's interest in preservation in effort to come up with some nominees.

There was discussion of how best to control the thermostats in the Darden House. Often times the heat is being turned up and then left on high temperatures indefinitely.

Phyllis and Logan led a discussion of how Americorps employees could be hired on a temporary basis to aid EHLC in effort to organize. There was a step by step method proposed:

- 1) Inventory of all that is currently in the Darden House
- 2) Appropriate funds to renovate office space.
- 3) Put in furniture and office supplies.

Phyllis motioned to let Americorps employees start the work immediately but not to exceed 100 hours. The motion was seconded by Carol and passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Ellen Spears