

Heritage Network Approved Meeting Minutes September 20, 2010

I. Call to Order/Roll Call/Minutes

President Joe Barreca called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. at the old McPherson/Colville Indian Agency cabin in Chewelah.

Board members present: Joe Barreca, Kathy Berrigan, Jackie Franks, Susan Dechant, Janet Thomas, Harold Ingram Guests: Becky Kehl and Dennis Dayley, members of McPherson family donating cabin

Motion to approve August 16, 2010 meeting minutes as corrected made by Susan, seconded by Janet, passed.

II. Treasurer's Report

Susan prepared a printed report showing cash flow from 8/14/10-9/20/10 and account balances as of 9/20/10. Cash flow report: Income included one history dollar and a refund \$111.29, the sales tax on Grady's bill. The only expense was \$17.97 for the phone bill, resulting in an overall total of \$94.32. THN back accounts came to \$5,465.26.

III. Open Issues

Prestini project: Colville's Prestini exhibit had over 600 visitors, with sales of \$1,200 worth of postcards, etc. Loon Lake and Clayton numbers are to come. It will be useful to have a summary report with costs, attendance, sales, etc. An additional benefit was to get the paintings cleaned and frames repaired; some frames were added, as well. Many copies of *the Columbia Monthly* were left over which can be used later.

Preserve America: Joe talked with Tricia Woods – nothing has happened since the interviews were completed. The technicalities with the grant are being checked on with Washington D.C. (scanner issue, questions about payment if a partial number of photos get done in the remaining time, liabilities, etc.)

THN mini-grant/Chewelah building: The cabin's porch supports are vulnerable; it looks as if it will be necessary to remove the deck and replace infrastructure. Replace exterior things first. THN funds to be used for materials for repairing, winterizing – total needed to be determined by the building inspector. Also, historical preservation people were contacted about what is needed to stabilize, etc. what is there. The building has a relatively new roof from 10 years ago with cedar shakes. Labor can be donated probably. (As long as up to \$1,000 is approved, a check can be written when needed.) Jackie made a motion to approve \$1,000 set aside for Stevens County Historical Society to use on fixing the cabin and they can request money as needed for materials, Kathy seconded, passed. Janet had the quit claim deed signed, Dept. of Revenue form and supplemental form. Need to plan an open house for the public. Brainstorm the best uses for the house (displays, library of Native studies, McPherson history.)

Family members Becky and Dennis gave background history of cabin, which was bought in 1902-3 from the government Indian Agency. Their grandmother bought it from her sister. At length, it was left to Dennis and Becky's mother and aunts. It has been occupied through the years, with a brief period of vacancy. The family had it put on the National Register of Historic Buildings. Dr. McPherson, who lived there, was prominent in the Chewelah area, and the family wants to keep his memory alive. The doctor owned the entire block, and donated land, saved a lot of lives and delivered many babies in his lifetime. Janet provided background articles, as well.

The City will loan items they hold related to the cabin's era for display, and the MAC may hold some items. A goal is to bring Indian Agency history together. Janet is to call together interested parties to create a comprehensive plan for the building's ultimate use (Indian focus, the doctor, his tie-ins to mining.)

Oral Histories: Received purchase order from NPS for two agreements, \$5,000 and \$4,000. The additional amount is for transcription verbatim for interviews. \$900 of the \$9,000 total is to go to THN. Six interviews were completed including the transcripts: the Brauners, Edith Leffelbein (101 years old), Mary Gifford, Art Avey, Mike Hoffmeister. Another grant for oral histories is coming. A note on the demise of the Columbia River ferries: It is said that 3 ferries went over Kettle Falls; one was let go when the bridge was built in 1929, as recounted in the movie, *Quincy Adams Sawyer*.

Role of Indian Women: Janet discussed some of the ideas behind highlighting the role of Indian women in our local history. Joe talked to tribal member, Jennifer Ferguson, who is in favor of gathering these stories, the importance of these women having been largely overlooked. They served as translators, besides aiding explorers in many ways and marrying French, English and Scotch men who came West. Discussion of “freed men” who worked for the Hudson Bay Company and Northwest Company, earning money that was to be paid at the end of their service if they returned to Montreal to collect it.

Barbara Swanson of Chewelah is writing a book of history.

History Dollars: Janet brought an 1869 survey map of Military Ft. Colville which can be found on-line at the BLM site and at the Colville museum. There is disagreement about the location of the military road near Arden, but an old book says that the military road ran along the east side of the valley. The Orin-Rice Road has been in existence since 1869. Janet also brought a legal description hand written by Angus McDonald. When Hudson Bay left, compensation for their property was expected. The government bought back the land and sold it to settlers.

Next regular THN meeting at Clayton school house on October 18 at 9:30 a.m.

Recorded by secretary Kathy Berrigan