

Dayton Historic Preservation Committee
Minutes of meeting of October 19, 2016

Present: Wayne Herring, Judy Gerrard, Dave Hargett and Kelly Haverkate

Absent: Martha Goodrich

Staff: Debra Lien, Heather Nelson

The meeting was called to order at 6:33 pm by Chair Judy Gerrard

Kim Courtin of the Brookside Cemetery Association was a guest speaker at the meeting. A group of interested people has gotten together to revitalize the association. They are looking to increase visibility and awareness of the cemetery and the group. They are looking for input and ideas. They want to be incorporated into the current events of Dayton.

Their first meeting will be held on November 17, 2016 at Kim's house at 525 Ferry St. They are looking to make other organizations in Dayton aware of their existence and to become integrated into the community and current events.

Dave asked if they will be cleaning the cemetery and do they have a timeframe for it? What is their vision? School kids used to clean cemetery, why was that discontinued?

Kim said the School District is looking for someone to spearhead it. They have a five-year timeframe to revitalize the cemetery. There is a liability issue for the School District that they want to avoid, which is why the kids don't clean the cemetery anymore. They would like to have a list of the historically significant people who are buried there. There is a great historical value of the cemetery to be considered.

There are grants tied to education to be considered as well. They want to raise money for a property line survey, a parking area, etc. They want to get people with ties to the community interested in the group and with this project.

A major problem is getting the school board interested and involved. Some members are not aware that the School District owns it. Wayne raised some of the problems with maintenance, and the District's reluctance to maintain it.

Kim has all of Jo Windish's records about the cemetery. The City would like to have copies of these records. We get requests for information all the time.

There needs to be a liaison between the School District, the Cemetery Association and the City, so everyone is aware of what is going on. Wayne said the school Board members may not have the old traditional ties to Dayton. They need to be reminded that the cemetery is a responsibility, too. Teachers could try to get children involved who may be interested in history.

Judy suggested that to raise awareness, they could have an activity tied to preservation week, which is always held in May, just before Memorial Day.

Dave suggested volunteers to clean it up.

A suggestion was made to get a declaration in support of the preservation of the cemetery made by the HPC or City Council. Debra will ask Scott about this.

Ideas for getting the word out were discussed, and various ideas for exposure. An agreement between the School District and City of Dayton was suggested.

There could be an article in the May edition of the DCDA newsletter. Debra suggested awareness of the project at the Holiday Bazaar in December. Judy suggested the coffee group get involved. They could increase awareness by posting on the Dayton Community Facebook page. What about other historical cemetery associations for ideas?

Approval of Minutes of meeting of July 21, 2016

Kelly made a motion to approve the minutes as written, which was seconded by Wayne. The minutes were unanimously approved, 4-0.

Future CLG Grant for 2017-2018

Kelly suggested a project that involved design assistance for preservation planning for the old school house on 4th St.

There was a discussion whether interpretive signs are classified as regular signs and thus not allowed. Regarding the cemetery, a preservation plan for it could be a project for the grant as well. Does rehabilitation of headstones and monuments qualify? We need to find out if they are considered as "historical features".

A walking tour brochure and a mobile friendly web brochure for the cemetery were suggested. Kelly suggested that a cemetery grant could be matching funds.

The list of suggestions from Kuri was discussed.

Cost of Main St conference could be included, but the City usually sets money aside for that.

As a backup plan the old school building could be used. If it becomes available, what would it take to restore the historical features, do design assistance or preservation planning? Where would the matching money come from?

For the cemetery, we are not ready for a conservation plan yet. For a preservation plan we could bring in an expert, do a walking tour brochure and a web page brochure. Money to fund a survey was suggested.

As another backup plan, there is the Stuckey Building, if they are ready to proceed.

We need to find out if a headstone a historic feature, then maybe an interpretive sign about the design of the cemetery or the layout or the features of the cemetery would be allowed. Research could be a match. Has anyone done this type of a project? We could ask Kuri.

Judy suggested we concentrate on the cemetery to leverage interest by the community in this project. Dave asked about a grant from the Ford Foundation.

Window rehabilitation workshop would not go over big. A scavenger hunt would not work; what kind of prize? School curriculum? What does that mean? Wayne explained the school district does not emphasize history these days, the requirements are different.

Judy summarized setting aside approximately \$2000.00 for the assessment of the old school building; for the main project for the cemetery a preservation plan, walking tour brochure and mobile friendly web page brochure and rehabilitation of historic features if those include headstones; if the cemetery plan falls apart then most for a backup plan involving the Stuckey Bldg. Could CLG money be used to fund a survey of the property?

Adjournment

Kelly made a motion, seconded by Wayne to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 pm. The motion was passed unanimously, 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra Lien
Community Development Specialist