

Historic Preservation Review Board – October 10, 2007 @ 7:00 PM

The meeting of the Historic Preservation Review Board was called to order by Chair, Mary Jane Anderson, at 7:00 PM at Town Hall.

Chair Anderson called the roll.

Members present: Mary Jane Anderson, Chair; David Waldron, and Michael Jean Carpentier

Also Present: Sandy Strehlou, HPRB Coordinator, and Merritt Olsen Executive Director of San Juan Island Community Theater.

Minutes

Minutes for the HPRB meeting of September 26, 2007 were approved as written.

Design Review: San Juan Island Community Theater Alterations

Merritt Olsen, Executive Director of San Juan Island Community Theater, addressed the HP board regarding planned alterations to the theater building. Alterations include: adding nine windows, two doorways, and an exit stairway and landing. The windows will be close in appearance to the original white-framed windows. The new doors will be painted and trimmed to match existing exit doors. The stairway will be painted metal with a wood landing, both painted to match the existing building. Mr. Olsen explained that the alterations under discussion were the second part of capital improvements planned by the theater most of which are non-structural interior remodeling.

Board member David Waldron disclosed that he is the architect on the project, but stated that he would participate in the discussion without bias. As per HPRB policy, Board members may participate in design reviews for projects in which they have an ownership, paid or unpaid interest as long as the reviews do not involve a request for one or both of the historic preservation incentives. This project is not seeking incentives

Chair, Anderson noted that the HP Manual is vague regarding non-historic buildings in transitional neighborhoods (such as the theater). She referred to guidelines for alterations on page 51 of the HP manual.

1. Alterations should be compatible in size, scale, material, and character with the existing building, nearby historic buildings, and the streetscape.

The Board concluded that the proposed alterations to the theater being both consistent with the existing building and on the back of the building and therefore

not visible from the street, nor likely to ever become visible from a street, were approved.

HP Coordinator Strehlou mentioned that a benefit of reviewing projects involving non-historic buildings in the historic district is that the review process results in documentation of architectural changes to buildings that will eventually become historic. This is especially important for nonprofit and civic buildings such as the community theatre, the schools, the community library, the post office, and others. This information will be invaluable in the years to come.

At 7:30 Mr. Olsen departed.

Design Review Process

A discussion regarding the board's recent field trip to Churchill Corner, adjustment of administrative review procedure and design reviews that involve board members was postponed until all members are present. The board may want to include revisions of the manual concerning these issues.

Board member Waldron will draft language for proposed new administrative review language.

Staff Report

Friday Harbor Town Council has given authorization for Friday Harbor's nomination as one of the National Trust for Historic Preservation's "Dozen Distinctive Destinations" for 2008. Recipients of the Trust's annual promotion receive the benefits of national recognition and increased awareness of the designated communities by heritage tourists. The outcome will be known in February 2008.

The historic Boede Cement building (known today as Friday Harbor Electric,) is slated to go on the market next year. TFH would like to explore possibilities of identifying a potential preservation-minded purchaser. The Boede Cement building is the last historic industrial building in Friday Harbor. Board member Waldron will talk to the Pope family regarding the Boede building.

Mary Jane Anderson, Chair

Peggy Sue McRae
8:30: Meeting adjourned