

**Keweenaw National Historical Park Advisory Commission
Minutes of Meeting – April 9, 2002**

Present: Commissioners –
Sue Cone, Village of Calumet
Kathryn Eckert, At-Large, National Park Service
Robert Langseth, Houghton County Board of Commissioners
Paul Lehto, Calumet Township
Tom Nemacheck, State of Michigan
Clyde Raasio, Quincy/Franklin Township

National Park Service –
Martha Armington, Management Assistant
Kathy Baker, Administrative Technician
Tom Baker, Park Ranger
Steve DeLong, Landscape Architect
Frank Fiala, Superintendent
Brian Hoduski, Museum Curator
Geri Larsen, Maintenance Worker
Charlie Masten, Facility Manager
Leslie Newkirk, Museum Curator Intake Trainee
Jo Urion, Oral Historian

Jill Burkland, Isle Royale Natural History Association
Jesse Drake, Daily Mining Gazette
Guy Goode
Erik Nordberg, MTU Archives and Copper Country Historical Collections
Amy Wisti, office of Bart Stupak

Absent: Larry Lankton, At-Large, National Park Service

Recording Secretary: Brian Hoduski

Call to Order

A regular meeting of the Keweenaw National Historical Park Advisory Commission was held Tuesday, April 9, 2002 in Calumet, Michigan at the Park headquarters.

Introductions

Paul Lehto introduced Amy Wisti from Bart Stupak's office, and thanked her for Bart's visit the previous week. Frank Fiala announced that Sherrie Davie from Sen. Stabenow's office was planning to attend the Commission meeting, but had car trouble and had to return to Marquette.

Agenda

Sue Cone added that she is taking nominations for the Historic Village Commission.

Review of Minutes

Minutes from the Advisory Commission meeting held October 23, 2001 were distributed and approved without changes.

Old Business

Paul reported an executive session was held to decide what to do about the position of Executive Director. They are proceeding with two more interviews. Frank reported that Steve DeLong met with Portage Health Systems to discuss a proposed re-design of the sign at Campus Drive. KEWE gave them a proposed rendering of a new sign and PHS will take that to the full board for further consideration.

Superintendent's Report

- ▶ New Staff: Frank introduced Jo Urion, an oral historian who will be working with Abby Sue Fisher in developing and implementing an oral history section. He thanked her for doing a wonderful job so far and welcomed her to the staff.
- ▶ Budget: The Superintendent's Annual Report for fiscal year 2001 is completed and Frank indicated all on the Commission should have received a copy with copies for the public. The fiscal year runs from October 1 through September 30 and the report highlights the milestones and major areas of concentration during that time frame. Frank will take questions on the report.
- ▶ Activities:
 - 1) Christman Company was awarded the rehabilitation contract on the Administration Building. Christman is a Lansing-based, prestigious firm that has done historical preservation work at Notre Dame University and was the company responsible for the rehabilitation on the Michigan State capitol. There will be local subcontractors. There is a 35% project review later this month, with a 90% review at the end of May, and construction is scheduled for June 1. The building will be entirely scaffolded and work will commence soon to get as much work done in the summer in hopes to have the work complete by the Park's rededication goal at the 10th anniversary celebration in October.
 - 2) Frank shared a Department of Interior news clipping entitled "Restore America's Parks" which names the KNHP Union Bldg. as the number 10 project for that year. A 3-day value analysis workshop was conducted in January to determine the scope of work in rehabilitating the Union Bldg. A report was generated and the Park has concurred with most of the 18 recommendations from that report.

3) Frank and Fritz Rushlow, a project manager from the historic preservation training center and KEWE staff member, did a pre-DAB presentation to the regional director. Frank thanked Tom Baker for helping with technological support on the PowerPoint presentation. Fritz and Frank will present to the DAB May 2, which is required for project approval, but Frank is not anticipating any problems.

4) A setback on the Rowe Building purchase is the failure for the current owner to sign the document before the 12-month KEWE appraisal expired in March. KEWE will have to update the offer but Frank is not anticipating any problems.

5) Frank met with the Elks group and indicated they are concerned about the future of their organization and their current building in Calumet, which has been their location for over 100 years. Although there was some momentum among the group to relocate, Frank has committed some Park resources in terms of professional services to reevaluate the structure and how to keep the organization there.

6) KEWE met with the Village of Calumet on their historic preservation ordinance and attended the meeting in which the ordinance was adopted by the ordinance committee, and a subsequent meeting in which the ordinance was adopted by the Village. In addition, Steve DeLong and Frank participated with the Village in the Pine Street rebricking project in February.

7) Five groups of students are working with Michigan Tech on an alternative transportation system project which will begin this summer. The groups will establish right-of-ways and will track location in the Village of Calumet in order to look at circulation patterns.

8) KEWE participated with the A.E. Seaman Mineral Museum and Quincy Mine Hoist in an industrial council breakfast on March 13, located at the Museum. Many attendees had never visited the Museum and it was a good opportunity to showcase the collections.

9) Senator Levin visited on February 21 and spent a considerable amount of time with the Park. He is planning a summer visit and the Park is encouraging him to attend the October dedication and anniversary celebration.

10) In upcoming events, Frank announced that the Upper Peninsula Tourism Conference is scheduled at Copper Harbor from May 15-16. KEWE has been working with them for about five months to plan the event and will host a set of workshops to highlight some of the Park's progress. Frank's workshop will highlight current events and future development; Abby Sue Fisher will present the role of the history center, and Charlie Masten will provide information about historic preservation. Some Park staff will attend the Michigan Historic Preservation Networks' annual conference April 24-26 in Traverse City, but Frank will not be able to attend as he is attending the Midwest Regional Managers' conference in Arkansas.

11) Charlie Masten and Geri Larsen have put forth an incredible effort in renovating the second floor of the Pay Office, and Frank thanked them for their work. Frank anticipates the Isle Royale staff to move in the end of April.

12) Staff will shortly be moving into the Library Building. Tom Baker is working with computer issues, Geri worked on painting and clean-up, and Frank is pleased with how beautiful the office space will be. There are health and safety issues that have to be resolved before the opening can occur.

13) Frank distributed a handout about the servicewide comprehensive budget call. The Park Service has changed its calls in how it competes for money. Frank has put in for four funding requests for base money increases. He also distributed another handout which lists all the projects in a variety of different funding sources. There are 52 projects in the total of which 37 were submitted this year.

14) Frank invited the Commission to participate in the organization of the Park's 10-year anniversary. Kathy and Tom Baker have assembled some program ideas, which Frank shared with the group. Frank shared the anniversary logo and banners that Tom had produced. The two open meetings about the celebration were poorly attended due to other activities the same night.

Questions asked of the Superintendent:

Regarding the PowerPoint presentation Frank referred to, Bob Langseth would be interested in having something like that at the next Commission meeting.

Sue Cone asked how many bids were received on the Administration Building project and how the Christman firm was chosen. There were four construction firms, and there was a design-build process, which differs from the traditional build process. The Park put out the specifications, and invited firms to address those. There were scoping meetings with the firms, with the intent of highlighting their capabilities. Christman excelled in this area. While the selection was based on value, since the figure stated could not be exceeded, the most important factor was the ability to do the job in a manner keeping with the specifications. There will be a variety of subcontractors to do the masonry, window or roofing work, etc. Kathryn Eckert supported Christman as an excellent contractor. Their lead person, Ron Staley, is a Tech grad and is familiar with the area and its historic significance. They are also experienced in sandstone consolidation work, which is crucial.

Reports from the Commissioners

Tom Nemacheck echoed Frank's statements about the U.P. Tourism conference in May and is looking forward to a good summer, though not an exceptional one. There is hesitancy for people to travel due to a soft economy and high gas prices. The hotel/motel business does not hurt as badly as campgrounds and attractions, since the travelers most affected by high gas prices are motor home owners. However, website visits are up and there is a good response to advertising. Additionally, the winter was not as bad as projected. He is not optimistic about how national economy will affect the summer.

Kathryn Eckert has been working with the local planning committee on historic preservation and smart growth, and distributed brochures regarding the conference to take place in Traverse City.

Connie Binsfield will be honored for her role in supporting historic preservation legislation. The awards ceremony on the final evening will be at the city Opera House, which is a Christman project. Frank complimented the Michigan Historical Preservation Network.

Bob Langseth would like the Commission to think about how legislators are approached about Section 10. He would like to see funds moved along to get historic preservation work done. He requested a motion to approach the legislators to put those monies out. Frank said the right way would be to make a motion to write a letter in support of the appropriating the monies identified in Section 10 as authorized, and have it signed and sent. Bob so moved, with the letters going to Sen. Levin, Sen. Stabenow and Congressman Stupak. Sue Cone suggested adding the Secretary of Interior. Motion was carried. Secondly, Bob additionally noted that after a meeting with state representatives in Lansing, the Commission needs an executive director to keep in better contact with state officials. They are familiar with the Park concept but do not have direct follow-up with how much federal money the Park needs each year, what the Park's current projects, etc. and they are not adequately well-informed. Thirdly, at the last meeting, Kathryn was asked to find some sandstone resource people for the Park and those resources were given to John Rosemurgy. Steve DeLong, in John's absence, indicated that he would follow up on that.

Sue Cone is willing to help with the 10th anniversary celebration. She indicated that the Village unanimously passed the historic preservation ordinance, which states that five members will be chosen from lists submitted from outside organizations. She is hopeful to get training for those chosen before the end of the year. The Village and the Township together are applying for a joint grant to do more paving on the Sixth Street extension and putting historic lights on Sixth Street. The second phase of the Theatre project has begun which involves restoration of the rigging. There is a company coming from Las Vegas to do that. There are also grant applications out for the Fire Museum, and she is hopeful to hear about those before long.

Clyde Raasio reported that things were quiet at Quincy during the winter. Looking forward, one of the big impacts will be the additional traffic lane on U.S. 41. Some of the fire department personnel were interested in the Seaman Mineral Museum relocation. The Township Supervisor asked the Association if there was assistance available for street paving. With regard to the proposed residential subdivision that the City of Hancock is planning, six acres of that falls within Park boundaries. Clyde suggested the Commission have a meeting with City representatives to determine how that will affect the Park and is willing to set up that meeting. Frank supported that suggestion.

Paul Lehto reported that with regard to the monies Sue Cone talked about, he feels they have a good shot at receiving some of those funds. Regarding the smokestack, they hired a firm to do bid specifications and hopes to authorize those specs at the April meeting. He is not confident the bids will come in at their \$25,000 limit, as he has been told it may be nearer \$100,000. The insurance company will pay \$8500 towards the drill shop roof.

New Business

Paul Lehto asked for recommendations for someone to sit on the historic district commission in Calumet. Bob suggested Joseph Mihal or Tony Bausano and possibly Sandy Johnson. Motion was passed to recommend Joseph and Tony.

Amy Wisti said Congressman Stupak was now back in Washington after his visit to the Keweenaw. Paul spoke with the Congressman about delisting Torch Lake as a superfund site. Amy was not able to get the Congressman to view the site but has seen herself the remarkable work that has been done.

Public Questions and Comments

Tom Baker indicated that the 10th anniversary logo was a prototype; he can provide print publication copy or electronic files of the finished logo. The 10th anniversary banner is on every page of the Park's website; cooperating sites are also being asked to post the banner. Tom has begun work on an Advisory Commission website and will solicit comments.

Erik Nordberg reported on the 4th Thursday in History series that the Park and the Archives have been jointly involved in. Since the Archives is not a cooperating site, it is a good way for the Park and the Archives to present a collaborative face. The series, begun in June, has been well-received. There were 40 people in attendance at a snowy night in February, which was also the night the hockey finals were played between Calumet and Houghton. He thanked Abby Sue Fisher for her collaboration in that event which concerned family history. In March, Erik and Brian Hoduski presented a program on collecting and preserving photographs, which was also well-received. On April 25, Larry Lankton and Tom Baker will present on collecting and preserving three-dimensional artifacts. There will be a poster that will advertise all the events to come. In May, Stan Dyl will talk about the mineral heritage of the Keweenaw, in June Terry Reynolds will present on milling and reclamation, Kathryn Eckert will speak in July, in August there will be slides from the Portage Lake Lift Bridge construction, September is the restoration of the pipe organ in Lake Linden. On another note, the Archives will acquire the records from the Masonic Lodge, among which are records that pertain to the Union Building. The Archives has the minute book from the Union Association and has made that available to Colin Munn, who has been researching for the historic structures report. Erik thanked the Park for its financial support in microfilming records from the Forest Hill Cemetery in Houghton. On May 18, the spring meeting of the Northland Consortium will take place in Rockland, Michigan. Ed Yarbrough, a former Park employee, will be one of the presenters in a session about historic walking tours. Finally, Michigan Tech is funding a Center for Integrated Learning and Information Technology, a \$35 million project which will provide new space for Fisher Hall and the J. Robert Van Pelt Library, including renovated space for the Archives. This is expected to be complete by 2005.

Erik mentioned that he would be in Marquette shortly and will stop to see former Advisory Commissioner Burt Boyum, passing along the Commission's good wishes. Bob Langseth asked him to do that. Erik reported that Burt's good work extends to that area; they are about to dedicate the renovated dry in Ishpeming as a museum and interpretive center for Cleveland

Cliffs. The reading room at this new facility will be the Burt Boyum Reading Room. In addition, a collection of 1200 cubic feet of CCI records has made its way from Lansing to Northern Michigan University's archives, largely because of the example that Keweenaw copper has provided. Sue Cone asked if Burt could attend the Park's 10th anniversary; Erik will inquire of Burt's daughter, Judy, when he sees her.

Paul reported that although none of the sports news was good, when you talk history you have to talk hockey. He offered his condolences that Michigan Tech didn't have a hockey team; Erik asked if the Park could fund an initiative in that regard.

Clyde Raasio asked about funding for Commission members and others to attend the smart zone meeting. Sue Cone moved that Commission members who wished to attend the meeting be funded out of the Commission budget. Expenses would include the conference fee. Motion was passed. Bob Langseth also moved for the authorization of \$1000 as expenses to continue the search for an executive director, which motion was passed.

Kathryn Eckert commented that Marlene Fluharty, the executive director of the Americana Foundation, is planning to visit the Keweenaw in July. They have funded the Calumet Theatre, the Pewabic House in Hancock, and the organ at the Congregational Church in Lake Linden. Frank would like to meet with her to showcase the Park's initiatives. Kathryn said it would be beneficial for her to meet with both Frank and John Rosemurgy, who wanted to talk to her about other projects. Marlene will also be at the conference in Traverse City.

Frank reminded the Commission that the next meeting was Wednesday, July 24. The location may change to the Heritage Center in Hancock due to the work being done on the Administration Building at that time.

The meeting adjourned.