

**Keweenaw National Historical Park Advisory Commission
Minutes of Meeting – April 29, 2003**

Present:

Commissioners

Ron Welton, Executive Director, KNHPAC
Sue Cone, Village of Calumet
Robert Langseth, Houghton County Board of Commissioners
Larry Lankton, At-Large, National Park Service
Paul Lehto, Calumet Township

National Park Service - KEWE

Frank Fiala, Superintendent
Martha Armington, Management Assistant
Steve DeLong, Landscape Architect
Abby Sue Fisher, Chief of Museum, Archives & Historical Services
Kathleen Harter, Chief of Interpretation
Brian Hoduski, Curator
Charlie Masden, Facility Manager
Leslie Newkirk, Intake Trainee
John Rosemurgy, Historical Architect
Jo Urion, Oral Historian

Guests

Zac Anderson, The Daily Mining Gazette
Diana Charles, office of Sen. Carl Levin
Sheri Davie, office of Sen. Debbie Stabenow
Lisa McKenzie, City of Hancock
Erik Nordberg, MTU Archives and Copper Country Historical Collections
Amy Wisti, office of Rep. Bart Stupak

Absent:

Kathryn Eckert, At-Large
Tom Nemacheck, State of Michigan
Clyde Raasio, Quincy/Franklin Township

Recording Secretary: Jane Nordberg

Special Note:

Due to a lack of a quorum of five Commission members present, Chairman Paul Lehto advised the meeting would be of discussion only, and no motions would be made.

Call to Order

A regular meeting of the Keweenaw National Historical Park Advisory Commission was held on Tuesday, April 29, 2003 at the KEWE Headquarters in Calumet. Chairman Paul Lehto called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. Frank Fiala introduced community members and guests present.

Review of Minutes

There were no suggested changes to the minutes from the Advisory Commission meeting held February 6, 2003. There was no action taken to approve them due to a lack of a quorum.

Report from the KEWE Superintendent

Frank reported the KEWE staff has recently completed two major tasks:

- 1) Project Management Information System submissions have been completed for fiscal year 2005-06. There are approximately 38 projects on that list.
- 2) The Michigan Main Street Project Application was submitted several days before the deadline. Frank distributed the application and thanked Martha Armington for her hard work in assembling the data, and Steve DeLong for his work on graphics.

Additionally, a fire management planning session was also conducted. Since KEWE owns property, a fire plan is necessary. Two consultants are working with KEWE and two other parks, and public comment will be solicited.

▶ Personnel Changes:

- 1) Leslie Newkirk will be leaving in late May for Salinas Pueblo Missions in New Mexico. Frank thanked Leslie for her excellent work.
- 2) Martha Armington will be leaving in mid-June for Denali National Park in Alaska. Frank thanked Martha for her initiative in structuring a largely undefined position.
- 3) Ken Kipena, who replaced Geri Larsen as an emergency hire, has been made a full-time employee.
- 4) Whitney Masden, a summer hire, will be working in information services and will do data entry, along with two architectural students who are seasonal hires. They will work with John Rosemurgy and Charlie Masden to do condition assessments of properties KEWE owns.

▶ Properties:

- 1) The exterior work on the KEWE Headquarters building is nearly complete.
- 2) An A&E contract has been initiated with an architectural engineering firm for the Union Building. They have been working on that for about three weeks. Staff will be meeting with the firm to do a 25% review.

- 3) KEWE has received about \$392,000 in planning money. Most of that will go into the interior work on the Park headquarters. That money should be available in the fall for FY 2004. There is an additional \$130,000 dedicated to initiating two historic structures reports, one for the Library and one for the Pay Office. Frank is working on how this money will be accounted for and spent.
- 4) Christman Company, who did the project management for the KEWE headquarters, is interested in the development of the Quincy Smelter area. Tomorrow [April 30] at 7:00 p.m., they will present to the Franklin Township Board possible smelter development.
- 5) Frank was recently informed that the test holes conducted at the Coppertown property have come up positive for lead and arsenic contamination. KEWE is prohibited from acquiring property that is contaminated in that manner. Frank just received this information and is waiting for more data to come through, although he indicated there were isolated areas of contamination and not the whole site.

► Activities:

- 1) The Library building and the KEWE headquarters are now connected through one telephone system. One of Whitney's primary jobs will be to answer the phone.
- 2) The Snowmobile Challenge occurred in March. The host of that event was previously Yellowstone National Park. Michigan Tech is now the new host, with KEWE being the new host park. The program's goal is to improve snowmobile efficiency.
- 3) The Local History Smackdown was held in February as part of the Fourth Thursday in History program. Frank acknowledged Jane and Erik Nordberg, Abby Sue Fisher and Brian Hoduski for their work in putting the event together. Frank considered it a great success and is hopeful it will be a yearly event.
- 4) Frank and other KEWE staff recently attended the George Wright Society's biannual conference in San Diego. The Society is beginning to integrate cultural and natural resources.
- 5) Frank and Ron Welton attended the Michigan Historic Preservation Network's conference. Ron will speak more about that during his report.
- 6) Frank indicated that several meetings ago, Kathryn Eckert had introduced the program "Economic Benefits of Historic Preservation in Michigan." KEWE was mentioned in the flyer as having strong potential for the development of heritage and cultural tourism in the state. Frank purchased two copies of the Executive Summary and gave one to Ron. It was also sent as an addendum to the Main Street application.

- 7) Ed MacMahon, author of "Balancing Nature and Commerce in Gateway Communities," gave four well-attended public programs of which KEWE was a sponsoring partner.
- 8) Steve has been working on a Coastal Zone Management Grant that was approved in conjunction with Calumet Township on the smelter project. Frank received a letter indicating that the person in charge of reviewing the project had received the "very informative, yet exhaustive study," and commended Steve for producing one of the finest studies he had read under the auspices of that grant. Frank thanked Steve's diligence in the smelter project proposal for adaptive re-use of the visitor's center.

► Upcoming Events

- 1) The Youth for Conservation program will be held mid-June through mid-August. Five students will be hired for that program.
- 2) A KEWE staff planning retreat is scheduled for May 20-22, facilitated by Sandra Washington, Chief of Planning in the Midwest region.
- 3) Frank recently received an invitation for Park partners to participate in a national conference hosted by the NPS and five other federal land managers. The conference will take place in Los Angeles in November, and is heavily weighted towards external partners. The Advisory Commission may want to send a representative to that conference.
- 4) Frank will attend the U.P. Tourism conference next week in Brimley.

Questions asked of the Superintendent:

Paul asked Frank about the status of the #1 warehouse. Frank had hoped to be in there by April 1, but the Department of Defense representative who has to certify the warehouse for storage certification required insulation be put in the building, and that delayed the exit. That should be completed by June 1. After the move, KEWE will own the building for use as a storage facility. Additionally, KEWE and the school have come to an agreement as to the mine core and the dry house facility.

Bob Langseth asked if members of the Advisory Commission would be attending the Planning Retreat. Frank said the issues involved in the Planning Retreat were Park-related. Some staff have questions about priorities and he would like to keep it in-house. There will be a visioning session with the Advisory Commission in the future, and the information provided at the Planning Retreat would be useful in a venue with both parties. Sue Cone said she was concerned as well, as Frank indicated the Planning Retreat was to plan for the future, and the direction of the Park over the next five years. Frank said he wants to look at programs, prioritize those programs and develop an organizational chart that will help to decide responsibilities from a Park

Service standpoint. Jane Nordberg will provide a written document that will be available for distribution.

Paul indicated he wanted to make the meeting with Christman, but can not attend. Frank said it's not so much a public meeting as it is a way to inform the Township of a development strategy that could be available to take advantage of historic tax credits.

Report from the KHNPA Executive Director

Ron said as an early kick-off to Preservation Week next week, a tax credit workshop will be held next Thursday. Brian Lijewski of the State Historic Preservations Office will visit Calumet. This is a good opportunity to hear how tax credits are working for others. It will be held at the home of Chris and Abbey Green at 7:00 p.m.

Ron attended the Michigan Historic Preservation Network conference with Frank last week, and also made a side trip before the conference to Dayton Aviation National Historical Park. They have similar issues to KEWE in terms of working with partners and a commission. Ron visited with the Park superintendent and the executive director of their commission. He will summarize his visit for KEWE and provide a report. The MHPN conference was well-attended and a major component of the conference was an initiative by Gov. Granholm's office as to the lack of comprehensive land use planning. Ron has a copy of her executive order that created the Michigan Land Use Leadership Council, which is charged with making a final recommendation by mid-August. Ron was impressed by two renovation projects, one in Battle Creek and the other in Kalamazoo, which were good examples of adaptive re-use.

The planning session with Michael Matts is tentatively set for noon, Wednesday, May 28 through noon of Thursday, May 29. Sue questioned why the estimated costs for the session increased from \$25,000 to \$32,000. Ron indicated the earlier number was off-the-cuff and the new estimate is based on travel expenses and harder figures. Paul asked if Ron would try to negotiate a figure closer to the original estimate. Frank said that some items could probably be eliminated. The Commission and the Park service will share the costs for three separate trips by Mr. Matts. Ron has cleared the dates with Kathryn and Tom, but has not heard from Clyde. Michael Matts is no longer with the National Trust and is now with Gray & Pape, a private organization.

Ron advised that Tom Nemacheck was married last Friday. His absence at the Board meeting was not due to his honeymoon but his attendance at the Society of American Travel Writers Convention in Philadelphia.

Reports from the Commissioners

Bob commended Finlandia University and the City of Hancock for bringing the President of Finland to the area. He also advised Connie Julien of Chassell is putting together a website dedicated to the centennial of hockey, which will occur in 2004. Bob also recently visited the Lizzadro Museum in Chicago and was impressed with the concentration of lapidary artwork and state-of-the-art lighting in the museum. Finally, he also visited the school in Little Rock,

Arkansas illustrating the story of racial integration, and was impressed with the power of the building itself.

Sue thanked Martha and John for their hard work on the Main Street application. She asked if the Park was planning anything in conjunction with the upcoming CLK reunion. Frank has not had contact with anyone regarding the reunion. Sue thanked Ron for providing an outline of money spent in the past, but the Commission needs to determine a budget and plan its priorities for the future. In Calumet, Sixth Street and Pine Street will be torn up. The Department of Transportation will stop the demolition if anything historical is found in the process to allow for documentation of those artifacts. Paul added bids would be opened on the Sixth Street project tomorrow. Frank asked Sue what was happening with the Caron building. Sue reported he was here, and some people were going to go through the building this afternoon at 4:00. He is willing to work with the Village, the Park, and the Planning Commission to find an alternative to demolition, because the building doesn't need to be taken down, he just wants nothing to do with it. Frank said the structure is sound and shouldn't be demolished. Letting people exercise that option denigrates the entire sense of place. Bob is concerned about the garage on Seventh Street. Sue said that was another issue. The Caron building is not part of the historic district. The Village has a demolition ordinance that gives it 120 days to find an alternative to demolition but that time has passed. They will keep working with him while he is in town.

Larry distributed a flyer advertising a photography exhibit and lecture on industrial heritage to be given by two museum directors visiting from Mexico. The lectures will be held May 2 and 3 at Michigan Tech. As for St. Anne's, there is no major renovation work occurring right now, but a new exhibit on worker housing is being planned for the summer. Kim Hoagland is planning to construct an actual-size frame of a company house inside the church, with photographic exhibits hanging from the frame. That is expected to be in place by July 1. Larry had reported at the last meeting that MTU may be hiring a new archeologist but that position was not filled before the hiring freeze. A new PhD program involving cultural resource management has also been put on hold.

Paul reported that he and John have been working on the drill shop. They spent about \$58,000 last fall stabilizing the building. They are still short \$15,000 to finish the metal roof project. He would like to see some Commission money used for historic preservation. Ron said a bill has been introduced in the state legislature to expand Michigan Council for the Arts funding to include historic preservation projects. Unfortunately, MCA funding was cut for next year, but eventually it will open up a new arena for funding projects. Paul said there were 2-3 groups that were willing to talk about reusing the building.

Reports from Legislative Officers

Diana Charles said the appropriation requests were due a few weeks ago and the mark-ups are coming. Sen. Levin is always looking for money for the Park and its partners. He is working on St. Anne's, the Seaman Museum, and the Calumet Armory. They were happy to support the Main Street project. Diana read excerpts from the Senator's floor statement about the conference report on the FY 2004 budget resolution, which Sen. Levin was against, but which passed the Senate on a 51-50 vote. The Senator's next visit may be sometime over the summer.

Sheri Davie reiterated Diana's statements, as Sen. Stabenow is also supportive of the area's projects. Sheri also thanked Martha for putting together the Main Street application. They were happy to support it.

Amy Wisti reported Chris Bouma, who attended the 10th anniversary of the Park celebration with Congressman Stupak, is now a legislative aide at the Department of the Interior. He was impressed with the area during his visit. Additionally, the Congressman's e-mail address has changed. Amy did not have it with her, but she advised the best way would be through the website. The website address has not changed.

Paul advised that the funding for the new armory made the five-year military construction list and is hoping that will get funded in the 2004 budget. They are looking for about \$2.1 million in federal funds. Bob thanked the legislators for their continued support.

Public Questions and Comments

Lisa McKenzie said the City of Hancock has money woes like everyone else, but they are hoping to carve out some funds for visual improvements. Finlandia and Design Michigan have designed some heritage signage for the city, and they hope to start work on that project soon.

Erik Nordberg said at the last meeting he was talking about going after some money from the Institute of Museum and Library Services, but that project has been put on hold awaiting the budget scenario from Tech. They are about to submit a small NEH grant to do some conservation assessment of the collection, and thanked the Park for its letter of support on that project. The groundbreaking for the new library building at Tech will occur next Friday at 9:00 a.m. The Local History Smackdown was a success and the Fourth Thursday series continues. He hopes to announce the speakers and venues for the next series within the next month. The next Fourth Thursday is May 22 at Jeffers High School, with Kim Hoagland speaking on the Seeberville murders that occurred during the strike of 1913. A visiting researcher, Stephen LeDuc, gave a presentation at the Archives recently that pertained to the ethnicity of the Calumet Township area. That research was supported by a research travel award program funded by the Friends of the Van Pelt Library. Over the last six years, they have funded about \$5,000 worth of travel by ten different researchers. A recent researcher, Aaron Shapiro, who gave a presentation on tourism in U.P. mining districts, will have an article published in the Michigan Historical Review. These are good funding opportunities for the Park as they support the Keweenaw's resources as a laboratory for historical research.

In closing, Frank wanted to report that Congressman Stupak also wrote a letter of support for the Main Street program, and information was given to Pres. Halonen of Finland during her recent visit to the area. He asked if staff had anything to add before adjournment of the meeting; there were no additional comments.

Paul asked Commission members to stay after the meeting to discuss the dates for the planning session.

The meeting adjourned at 10:35 a.m.

Meeting Dates:

3rd quarter: Tuesday, July 22, 2003
4th quarter: Tuesday, October 14, 2003