

## **Keweenaw National Historical Park Advisory Commission Minutes of August 6, 1996**

### Present: Commissioners -

Burt Boyum, Quincy Mine Hoist Association  
Clarence Dwyer, Houghton County Commissioner  
Kathryn Eckert, State Historic Preservation Officer  
Paul Lehto, Calumet Township Supervisor  
Mary Tuisku, Council Person, Hancock

### National Park Service -

Bill Fink, KNHP Superintendent  
Josef Balachowski, Historical Architect  
Lyn Bjorkmann, Preservation Planner  
Al Hutchings, Associate Field Director  
Ed Yarbrough, KNHP Historian

### Recording Secretary -

Lisa Dwyer, Michigan Technological University

### Absent: Commissioner -

Peder Kitti, Calumet  
Larry Lankton, Michigan Technological University

### Call to Order

A regular meeting of the Keweenaw National Historical Park Advisory Commission was held Tuesday, August 6, 1996, in Calumet, Michigan at park headquarters. The meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m. by Chair, Paul Lehto.

### Review of Minutes

The minutes of the May 21, 1996 were reviewed. On a motion by Burt Boyum and seconded by Clarence Dwyer, the minutes were approved with no additions or corrections.

### Superintendent's Report

Bill Fink reported on the FY 1996 budget which ends September 30, 1996, saying there is enough money to keep Lyn Bjorkmann and Ed Yarbrough on through the fiscal year thanks to supplemental funding from Midwest Field Office and Denver Service Center. Pending finalization by Congress of budget approval, it is still uncertain if Bjorkmann and Yarbrough can be kept on payroll through the entire FY '97. Fink said he could put them on payroll on an intermittent status beginning in October which would allow him to call them back to work depending on clarification by Congress of the budget. If the President's budget for the park passes, there will be funding to establish a permanent full time interpretive specialist position. Fink explained that the duties of that position would be a combination of interpretive specialist, historical planner, and researcher for specific projects. The planner would work with cooperating sites and with local units of governments to continue the preservation district ordinance planning process.

The owners of the building where park headquarters office space is located are working with the park service to have a formal lease drawn up, Fink said. In the meantime, he and the KNHP staff are working with the building owners to make some minor improvements to the office space. Fink said that he and his staff will provide the labor and materials.

There was discussion about the function of the newly formed Finance and Operation Committee. Clarence Dwyer said that he had hoped to see a written year-to-date financial report from Fink at today's meeting and asked what part the committee would play in this. Fink explained how he would interact with the committee saying that he would seek advice and opinions from the committee, but essentially the actual administration of the park budget is his responsibility. Paul Lehto suggested that he and the other 2 members of the committee, Burt Boyum and Clarence Dwyer, get together today and schedule a meeting date.

The GMP is getting close to a final draft of the plan, Fink said. Within the next 2 weeks each of the advisory commissioners will be sent a copy of the park service's internal review copy and be able to submit comments they have on it.

Fink reported that visitation at the state parks in the Keweenaw is down slightly this year probably because of the weather. In addition, Fink continued, some parks are having problems with their campground reservation system.

Houghton County was able to purchase 20 acres at the Quincy Hill overlook through an ICTEA enhancement grant, according to Fink. He spoke with an official of MDOT about some of the possibilities for future use of a structure in that area saying it could be a combination of park service use, a 24 hour rest area/information area as well as housing the office of the Keweenaw Tourism Council.

#### Historical Architect's Report

Josef Balachowski reported that he is advising on rehabilitation of a roof structure at one of the local churches. He is also working on two documentation projects. One is on St Anne's Church where Balachowski said he had the help of the Calumet High School technical drafting class and the other is on Boiler House #7 at Quincy where he had the help of 10 high school students attending a Michigan Tech summer learning program. He is also advising on replacement windows for the Captain's House.

Balachowski said he will be meeting with Burt Boyum and Terry Reynolds, chair of Social Sciences at MTU, to discuss a comprehensive plan for visitor's services at Quincy and consulted with Burt Boyum and Jim Vivian Jr. on what would be of interest to visitors at Quincy.

Balachowski said Erik Nordberg of the Michigan Tech Archives has been very helpful in providing information, photographs, and guidance on the design of the walking tour signs for Calumet.

#### Research Historian's Report

Ed Yarbrough spoke of the status of his historic resource study, saying the rough draft is finished. He said that the study is the foundation of interpretation for the park.

An \$8,000 grant from the Omaha office for the walking tour has been awarded, Yarbrough said, adding that Calumet Township will donate labor and Coppertown USA will donate money. There has been extensive research on the walking tour, Yarbrough said.

He and Balachowski laid the walking tour out according to the Harper's Ferry standards. They will also follow the same format and use the same materials as the Quincy walking tour which has already been designed, he added. Michigan Tech Archives has been extremely supportive and involved in the walking tour. The

duplication of the photographs to be used in the walking tour is extremely expensive and the Archives has donated the use of the photographs.

Yarbrough said his summer activities have included talks on the Ranger III on Thursday evenings, as well as presentations at Fort Wilkins, McLain State Park, and the Porcupine Mountains State Park. He has done some interpretive training with staff at Quincy Mine Hoist Association and Fort Wilkins. He also was an invited speaker, along with Larry Lankton, to the Upper Peninsula chapter of the Michigan Historical Society.

Yarbrough said he has been working with Lyn Bjorkmann on company housing research material as well as working with Bjorkmann, Balachowski, and Fink on Preservation Week held last May.

#### Historical Planner

Lyn Bjorkmann said the products of the Calumet, Laurium and Calumet Township survey - maps, survey cards and a data based - have been completed. This is another step in the direction of establishing an historic district ordinance. Approximately 2000 volunteer hours have been put in and Bjorkmann said she would like to thank the many volunteers who helped with this project.

Bjorkmann distributed a document prepared by Frank Gilbert of the National Trust titled "Calumet Township Historic District Ordinance" which would work initially for Calumet Township. Essentially it sets up a commission, she said, which would set standards to oversee work to be done by private individuals. The township board would probable serve as the initial commission. Calumet Village has also expressed an interest and eventually would like to move toward a unified historic preservation commission that would oversee work in several districts. This document was written especially for the township. Bjorkmann said she will be meeting with the township on how to operationalize the ordinance. In order to get the ordinance enacted a report must be made which states the significance of the area and the boundaries of the area. Property owners have to be notified and a public hearing must be held. Fink explained that this ordinance is for Calumet Township and pertains to the industrial core of the township. He said that it is to be an interim ordinance. The villages of Calumet and Laurium and, eventually Quincy and Franklin Township, would be able enact an ordinance following the same procedure. The ordinance stays within the township of Calumet defining where the historic district is within that township.

#### Chairman's Report

Paul Lehto said he has received bids of \$7,000 to \$8,000 to replace windows in the Captains Office.

Lehto has been in contact with Brian Swift, the governor's representative in the Upper Peninsula, to get suggestions on how to persuade the State of Michigan to donate the former Calumet Police Post to Calumet Township. Lehto had sent a letter last May requesting that the state donate the building to Calumet Township, but no action has been taken by the state.

In other activities, Lehto said that Calumet Township received an ICTEA grant for 1997 for sidewalk and landscaping on Sixth Street. The township has intentions to upgrade Mine Street, Swedetown Pond, and Swedetown Road through bond issues, he added. The township is still actively pursuing the purchase of 900 acres of Swedetown Trails.

Lehto announced that the Michigan House in Calumet has recently reopened.

#### Reports and Comments from the Commissioners

Burt Boyum said that Quincy Mine Hoist attendance is up over last year. Gift shop sales are up as well. The

Hoist moved its tourist information center from the 1894 engine house, which was not visible from the highway, up to the supply house. The visibility of the vehicles in the parking lot seems to attract the curiosity of others who then also stop to visit the site, according to Boyum.

The tramcar is being built in Kearsarge and the rail bed is under construction, Boyum reported. The Hoist had applied for an ICETEA grant in support of a station house at the upper and lower end of the tramcar for loading passengers but did not receive it. Boyum said he spoke with Lansing officials who said the grant application met federal standards but the State of Michigan added some extra criteria causing the grant to be turned down. Unfortunately, Boyum said, the committee deciding the grant wasn't impressed that this is to be the only cogwheel railroad in Michigan. Plans will still move along for the station in spite of not getting the grant. The Hoist Association will confer with Josef Balachowski on the design of the station and try to have the structure reflect the times of the 1870s-1880s when there were tramways on the Quincy hillside. The first use of the tramway may occur in late September. A public announcement will be made and there is to be an appropriate ceremony for the opening of the tramway.

Boyum spoke of the visit made by Governor Engler and Senator Levin to the area back in 1991. At that time the governor made a pledge of 8 million toward the park effort. Brian Swift the governor's representative, has been asked on several occasions to look into the pledge. Recently Boyum said he sent another letter to Brian Swift proposing that the governor appoint a special commission made up of people from the Michigan Chamber of Commerce, Michigan Manufacturers Association, and people from both the Lower Peninsula and Upper Peninsula to take a look at the Keweenaw National Historical Park in terms of its importance to the State of Michigan. Brian Swift indicated to Boyum that there seems to be little enthusiasm from Lansing for such a committee to be established. In addition, the governor's staff has asked repeatedly how much funding the federal government has provided toward the park. Boyum said he feels that this has been a stumbling block for Lansing. Boyum proposes that the advisory commission analyze the situation and look at it in terms of a desperate need in both Calumet and Quincy area. Buildings need to be stabilized to prevent further deterioration. Priorities should be set and a budget formalized as well as some kind of timetable. Boyum said he feels that this information and effort might be a way to convince Lansing to spend some money here.

Paul Lehto introduced Tom Tikkanen, chairman of the Downtown Development Authority in the Village of Calumet. Tikkanen spoke of the concern the village has in struggling with an historic district ordinance. He said that Lyn Bjorkmann has been extremely successful in getting along with the people and has been a very good influence. He said he feels most of the public likes the development that is going on but at the same time they express concern about the inappropriate development which could jeopardize park status. Tikkanen said and the DDA of Calumet Village feel it is necessary to keep both Lyn Bjorkmann and Ed Yarbrough who are helping to implement an historic district ordinance and hope that every effort is made to find funding for the positions.

Lehto then distributed copies of a letter from the Village of Calumet regarding the request for continued funding of the Preservation Planner's position. (See attached copy.) Eckert asked what the advisory commissioners could do to encourage continued funding. After some discussion a motion was made and passed that the KNHP Advisory Commission support the funding of the current position of the Community Preservation Planner and communicate that support to the National Park Service in Omaha.

Sue Cone, Comptroller of the Village of Calumet, commented that if the Village doesn't get the professional help necessary to help draft the historic district ordinance and to administer it, there will probably not be an ordinance in the village because they don't have the funding or the expertise to accomplish this goal.

Kathryn Eckert distributed copies of the State Historic Preservation Office publication "Preservation Shore To Shore". She said it is not her office's plan but rather a plan for historic preservationists throughout the state of Michigan to follow. An action agenda will follow in a few weeks.

Eckert announced two education programs to be held in the fall. The Rural Issues in Community Development Forum will be conducted with the Michigan Historic Preservation Network in Boyne City on September 19. In addition, Eckert said her office is holding its annual fall workshop on October 25 in Lansing. It will be a one day meeting to be held at the Michigan Historical Center and the topic is on economic development.

On October 26 Eckert's office is hosting a day-long training session for historic district commissioners. She commented that this could be useful if anyone is working with people to administer an historic district ordinance. It is being conducted with the Michigan Historic Preservation Network.

Eckert distributed a copy of a draft of the Preservation Planning Committee's purposes and charges of which she, Larry Lankton and Mary Tuisku are members. Lankton drafted it. Eckert and Tuisku critiqued it, Eckert explained. The committee intends to meet at least twice a year probably in conjunction with the advisory commission meetings.

This year the National Trust for Historic Preservation declared Petosky one of the nation's 11 endangered areas because of highway development threatening historic areas and super stores being built, Eckert said. In addition, approximately 800 very expensive "spec" homes are being built on the outskirts of Petosky so the city is feeling development pressures, according to Eckert.

Mary Tuisku said that she feels much has been accomplished toward the establishment of the park in spite of the impediments that have been thrown in its way. The "bureaucrats" in Washington should be embarrassed that so little money has been given to the park, she added. Tuisku said she wanted to clarify for the record though when she refers to "bureaucrats" she is not referring to our Michigan representatives.

Tuisku said that a book titled "The 100 Best Small Art Towns in America" written by John Villani has ranked the City of Hancock as number 70 among 100 cities listed. She said that Hancock is not only recognized as an art center, but also an historic community as well as a Finnish cultural center.

In other activities in the City of Hancock, Tuisku said that the city is aggressively encouraging property owners to clean up, repair and renovate. One of Hancock's long term goals is to get an historic ordinance in place. The Historic Preservation Commission was recently given some money by the city council to set up a slide presentation of historic areas in the city.

A streetscape project should take place in the fall. The downtown area of Hancock has rebounded from a slump it had been in for a few years, according to Tuisku. There are no vacant storefronts and business owners say business is very good.

Eckert asked Tuisku what will be done with the old firehall in Hancock now that a new one has been constructed. Tuisku said it may be used for public restrooms and police might take over some of the area. She said that the historic character of the building will not be disturbed by any changes made in the building.

Clarence Dwyer said that he recently received a call from Paul Tesonovich's office recently saying that his office was very upset with the statement in the KNHP Update saying that the state is not involved in helping the park.

Dwyer said, he too, had spoken with the owners of the building where the park headquarters is located and agreed with what Fink reported earlier in today's meeting. Dwyer said he would like to see some kind of written agreement between the owners of the building and the park service stating that the park would be the first to know about the sale of the building. The owners are just as concerned and would like to get a firm commitment from the park service also. Fink said that the owners could execute and record a "right of first refusal" with the government. High priority is placed on acquiring both the park headquarters building and the

Quincy Pay Office according to the GMP, Fink added. It was suggested that the Finance and Operations Committee monitor the status of the park headquarters building.

Dwyer also stressed the importance of the governor coming to the Keweenaw to attend an advisory commission meeting.

Eckert pointed out that two important connections in Lansing are Connie Binsfield, who was born in Munising, and Candice Miller, who has ancestors from Calumet.

Amy Wisti, assistant to Bart Stupak, read a letter addressed to the Advisory Commission from Stupak. Stupak expresses his full support of the park and complimented the commission for its dedication and contributions to the park. Lehto asked Wisti to provide him with a copy of the letter to be passed on to the advisory commissioners. Wisti explained that she always gives Stupak a written report on what transpires at advisory commission meetings.

Jim Vivian Sr. spoke of the plans for the intersection of the access road to the new hospital to be built in the Quincy area. He recalled that at the last advisory commission meeting it had been suggested that there be a meeting to discuss development of the road, between Larry Lankton, Hancock City Manager Glen Anderson, the hospital, and Hitch Engineering, the designer of the access road. Tuisku said she didn't think there had been a meeting and suggested that Vivian check with Glen Anderson within the next few days to see if anything has been finalized.

Vivian also asked what the status is of the Quincy walking trail. Fink said the park service will be purchasing from MTU, a report in booklet form, compiled by Industrial Archaeology graduate student, Heather Spencer of the Social Sciences Department to be used as a historical guide of the Quincy National Historical Landmark.

Vivian also requested that the Quincy Mine Hoist Association be kept informed of any developments regarding the 20 acres purchased by MDOT in the Quincy overlook area. He said this could affect the longterm planning of the QMHA.

Al Hutchings said that the House did accept the President's budget recommendations which would allow \$45,000 for a preservation planner at KNHP. The Senate bumped the budget up 3%. He added that, as a general rule, if the House and Senate both vote for an increase it generally stays.

Hutchings spoke of the GMP, saying that it not only will provide general guidance to the superintendent and staff over the next 10 to 15 years, it also becomes "the point of departure" for the park service to begin to do some things. In general, nothing is funded until this plan is in place, he continued. So at least in 1997, the priority planning teams within the park service will have the GMP to look at and to begin to consider implementation of plans.

Hutchings said he agrees that bringing state and federal officials to the Keweenaw for a familiarization trip of the park would be helpful as stated in the minutes of the last advisory commission meeting, but it may be difficult to do this year since it is an election year.

Hutchings recalled that at a previous meeting it was suggested to compile a list of accomplishments the park has made. Fink said that Reverend Langseth made a report about six months ago and the list was sent to Amy Wisti and to Senator Levin. Eckert asked Fink if she and the other advisory commissioners could have a copy of that list so they could enhance it, if necessary. Hutchings commented that this kind of list, in addition to Boyum's earlier suggestion to put together some dollar figures, could be useful for funding requests.

## Public Questions and Comments

A member of the audience asked what the status is of a replacement for Advisory Commissioner Peder Kitti. Hutchings said that the request is in the Secretary of Interior's office. A request has been sent to the Secretary of Interior to either ask for new nominations or act on the nominations which have been submitted.

Steve Albee of WUPPDR said he would like to suggest that the advisory commission advise the State of Michigan to begin a "heritage park investment program," particularly since there is so much going on throughout the state in the area of "heritage." Then some kind of policy would be in place making it more palatable for the state to invest in places such as the KNHP. This type of policy would be applicable throughout the state, he said.

Mary Chaput of the Houghton County Historical Society asked that cooperating sites be publicized more in future writings about the park. Ed Yarbrough added that in any presentations he makes, he always refers to the cooperating sites including Houghton County Historical Society.

Paul Lehto asked if the cooperating site agreement with Quincy could be standardized so that it could apply to all cooperating sites. Fink said it will be a good agreement to follow when implementing cooperating agreements with the other sites.

The next advisory commission meeting will be held at 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday, October 29, 1996 at park headquarters. Everyone agreed to wait until the October meeting to decide future dates of advisory commission meetings.

Meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m. on a motion by Clarence Dwyer and seconded by Mary Tuisku.