

KEWEENAW NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK ADVISORY COMMISSION Minutes of meeting August 25, 1998

Present: Commissioners –

Kathryn Eckert, Advisor, National Trust for Michigan
Larry Lankton, Michigan Tech University
Paul Lehto, Calumet Township Supervisor
Burt Boyum, QMHA

National Park Service –

Frank Fiala, KNHP Superintendent
Josef Balachowski, Historical Architect
Lynn Bjorkman, Community Planner

Recording Secretary –

Lisa Dwyer, Michigan Tech University

Absent: Clarence Dwyer, Houghton County Commission

Mary Tuisku, Council Person, City of Hancock

Call to Order

A regular meeting of the Keweenaw National Historical Park Advisory Commission was held Tuesday, August 25, 1998, in Calumet, Michigan at Park Headquarters. The meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m.

Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved by the Advisory Commission.

Review of Minutes

The minutes of the June 9, 1998, were reviewed and the following corrections were made. The spelling of the name of *Joseph Mihal* on page 3 was corrected. A sentence in the last paragraph on page 3 was changed from, “Bjorkman is also doing a very brief survey of mine housing in the Quincy area *under the direction of* Nancy Fisher” to “Bjorkman is also doing a very brief survey of mine housing in the Quincy area *with the assistance of* Nancy Fisher...” The minutes were then accepted and approved.

Frank Fiala reported on the activities of park staff.

Community Planner

Lynn Bjorkman, continues her work with the local units of government. She has completed work on the Calumet Township survey of mining housing properties. Approximately 1300 properties have been assessed and inventoried. She added that she had the invaluable help of Joseph Mihal who assisted her in the survey. She is continuing to further her work with the community on the Agassiz Park plan. A 5th year landscape architect student spent a week this summer helping assess, evaluate, and draw Agassiz Park. He also did an assessment of the Quincy Mine Hoist area and as a result of this he will be taking on the Quincy Hoist area as his final project.

Historical Architect

Josef Balachowski is continuing his work on the readaptive use of the Keweenaw Heritage Center at St. Anne’s. He has also been working with the principal architect at Hitch, Inc. who has offered to produce a stabilization report for the blacksmith shop and machine shop at the Quincy Mine area. These are the two buildings that have been identified as the possible site for the future relocation of the Seaman Mineral Museum. He is monitoring the on-going deterioration of those buildings as well.

He gave slide presentations at recent community functions. He has also been working with the operations manager of Calumet Electronics and the architect at U.P. Engineers & Architects to design a compatible addition to the old C & H roundhouse.

Superintendent

Fiala reported that Congressman Bart Stupak toured the Seaman Mineral Museum and the Quincy Hill area this summer. Senators Carl Levin and Spence Abraham also visited the Keweenaw area this summer. Senator Abraham has been identified by Governor Engler as the spokesperson for the Clean Michigan Initiative, a bond issue to generate clean-up money for some of the environmentally contaminated industrial areas of the past. The bond issue is to be voted on at the November election. Senator Abraham and Governor Engler have identified the Quincy Smelter area as a possible project for cleanup.

Senator Levin toured the Quincy and Calumet area and is aware of the plans for the Seaman Mineral Museum. Levin has a tentative meeting scheduled with the Secretary of Interior Babbitt September 11, at which time he is going to discuss issues facing Keweenaw.

Fiala distributed a copy of a proposed amendment that Levin will submit for inclusion in bill S.2006. The amendment states that if someone is appointed to the KNHP Advisory Commission other than a nominee submitted by the Calumet Village Council, Calumet Township Board, Houghton Board of Commissioners, or the Governor of the State of Michigan, an explanation of the determination must be submitted to the Secretary of the Senate and the Clerk of the House prior to the appointment. Kevin Morter, the Senator's U.P. representative, stated that if anyone thinks the amendment should be revised in any way to speak with him after the meeting today.

Fiala said that he has provided briefing papers to the Michigan congressional delegates regarding appropriation requests for KNHP's operational budget. He has asked for one million dollars in order to initiate and fulfill legislative partnership responsibility for the park. He said he has learned that there is a \$200,000 increase in the park budget for FY 99. He also submitted a briefing paper on land acquisition funding needs for the park.

Fiala distributed copies of his funding requests for five projects for FY 99 and FY2000. The projects are stabilization of the blacksmith's shop and machine shop, complete historic structure reports for the blacksmith's shop and machine shop, acquisition and documentation of the Jack Foster collection, a cultural landscape inventory, and funding to expand the volunteer program.

Fiala reporting on other activities connected with the park said that long-time supporter of the park, Laurie Bink, is now back on Senator Abraham's staff as the deputy chief of staff. A water authority has been formed by Quincy and Franklin Township. The park continues to have some concerns on the extension of First Avenue in the Quincy area both from a practical sense and a safety sense, but there has been no final word from the city of Hancock on the plans for the extension.

In early July, the park superintendents from Sleeping Bear Dunes and Apostle Islands conducted a reallocation review of KNHP. As a result, a \$28,000 salary allocation will probably be taken out of the park budget, according to Fiala, since research historian, Ed Yarbrough's position is vacant now that he has left the park staff to take the position of manager of the QMHA.

Fiala, along with park staff and Seaman Mineral Museum staff, met recently with Sandra Clark, Director of the Michigan Historical Center to discuss the relocation of the Seaman Mineral Museum from the Michigan Tech campus to the blacksmith shop and the machine shop on Quincy Hill. Both the park and Michigan Tech are participating in an engineering study of the sub-surface stability of the prospective site of the museum.

Fiala distributed copies of the Record of Decision, the official document finalizing the General Management Plan. The document will be available on the park's website.

Park headquarters is beginning its move to the ground floor of the building it is currently in.

Chairman's Report

Paul Lehto reported that Senator Levin met with him this summer and spoke about the appointments to the Advisory Commission. Levin indicated that it is unlikely that the Secretary of Interior would appoint someone to the Advisory Commission who would not be on the list of recommendations submitted to him.

The C & H roundhouse is going to be expanded by about 5000 or 6000 feet. The proposed project was submitted to the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) for their review. The Renaissance Zone project also went for a SHPO review since it is located near the Red Jacket shaft site. Calumet Township will be receiving a \$5,000 industrial development award from the Wal-Mart Corporation.

Reports and comments from the commissioners

Larry Lankton continues to work with the development of the Keweenaw Heritage Center at the former St. Anne's Church. He asked Fiala to review the park's plans for use of the Calumet buildings it would like to acquire. Fiala responded that in their order of importance, the park would like to acquire the C & H Administration building (where park headquarters is currently located) and the library building. The plan is to use the library for park headquarters and the C & H building will be available for a lease back arrangement with other organizations. The Rowe Building might be linked to the Coppertown building via a tunnel between the two buildings. The tunnel would go through the Calumet lode with the idea of enhancing the visitor experience. The Union Building on Fifth Street could become an interpretive center and kick off the Calumet walking tour.

Lankton asked if anything is being done to stabilize the Quincy Mining Company office. Fiala said that it is his understanding that QMHA is interested in acquiring the building.

Lankton asked Fiala to clarify what the latest information is on the design for the road alignments on Quincy Hill. Fiala said there has been a redesign of Campus Drive and U.S. 41 intersection for safety purposes. No traffic light has been proposed there, though. The alignment on certain roads which will access the new hospital, the high school, and the gravel pit on Quincy Hill is still in question between the city of Hancock, the park, and Quincy Township. If there isn't a concurrence between the city, township, and the park, SHPO will make the determination on how the road situation will be resolved.

Lankton asked about how donations of collections to the park service will be handled. Fiala said he does not feel it is necessary for the NPS to initiate an archive collection since there are a variety of resources that can maintain and preserve those collections.

Lankton also noted that he just recently read in the paper that the Kingston Mine shaft house was taken down. He did not know it was slated for demolition and added that it is an unfortunate loss to the landscape especially when there are so few of these landmarks left.

Kathryn Eckert reported that the State Historic Preservation Office is hosting a fall workshop in September on land use and sprawl, and the National Trust's annual meeting is in Savannah at the end of October. She spoke of the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore near the Traverse City area and said that occasionally she is called upon to consult with this park. She said that this much older park can learn a lot about partnership parks from our much newer KNHP. Eckert referred to the August 21, 1998, advisory commission minutes and asked Fiala how the Challenge Grant of \$10,000 will be used that was given to Old Victoria. Fiala said that Old Victoria plans to use the grant in connection with the reconstruction of log homes there.

Burt Boyum reported that he has embarked on a new project. It is to be an historical effort related to iron mining. He is working with Cleveland Cliffs Mine to make the abandoned iron mine area in Ishpeming into an iron mining theme park. This area is now on the National Register of Historic Places.

Committee Reports

The Finance and Park Operations Committee and the Preservation Planning Committee did not have any reports to make.

Comments from legislative staff

Paul Lehto introduced Kevin Morter of Senator Carl Levin's Office and Amy Wisti of Congressman Bart Stupak's office who both stated that if anyone has any information that they would like related to the senator or congressman to please let them know after the meeting today.

Comments and questions from the public

Gordon Peterson of Calumet suggested that it would be a good idea to plan fish boils again.. He explained that this had been done in the past to unify the public on the establishment of the park and as a fundraiser to benefit the park. He also reminded people that there is a designated area on the highway in Calumet where signs can be hung to promote the park. Fiala agreed that signs to promote the park and its sites is important and the issue of signage will eventually be addressed by the park. Fiala said he is also looking into developing a brochure or a park newspaper to use as a handout to visitors which will highlight and delineate park sites.

John Vertin of Calumet said that he has spoken with the person who painted some of the signs in place that promote the Coppertown Museum , downtown Calumet, and the Calumet Theater, in order to get suggestions on improving them and increasing their visibility. Vertin said he would get Fiala's approval on any sign changes.

Mrs. William Liddicoat, owner of property at the Central Mine location, spoke of her concern for the on-going removal of the poor rock piles at that site since the rock piles are a contributing feature to the historic landscape of Central Mine. She wanted to alert the commission to this destruction. Lankton suggested to the commission that a survey of rock piles in the Keweenaw be done listing their location, and where they serve as a substantial part to the historic vistas they should be maintained. He added that he knows that all the rock piles cannot be preserved, but at least this type of survey would aid in knowing which rock piles should be preserved such as those at Central Mine. Lankton recommended that the Advisory Commission Preservation Planning Committee draft a statement on the importance of preserving some of the poor rock piles and present it for consideration at the next advisory commission meeting.

John Garber reported on the development of an historic assets database with the Calumet unit of KNHP and spearheaded by Dick Dana. Garber said they are concentrating on the industrial core at this time and will expand from there. These efforts are being enhanced by the 1994 and 1996 survey of area properties done by Lynn Bjorkman and Joseph Mihal.

Erik Nordberg of the Michigan Tech Archives questioned what would be done with any money obtained from fundraisers. Nordberg said that he also was surprised to read in the paper about the demolition of the Kingston Mine shaft house. He stressed that the public needs to be better educated on the significance of saving structures that contribute to the historic landscape.

Fiala commented on Nordberg's question on money obtained through fund raising. Once the Advisory Commission becomes an operating commission it will have the authority to handle money and dispense gifts on behalf of the park such as money collected from fund raising. Fiala added that an

agreement has been finalized with the Isle Royale Natural History Association. IRNH will act as cooperating association for the park and will be responsible for selling books and merchandise associated with the park. The profits that are raised in this way would become available for park projects.

A guest (no name given) in the audience raised her concerns regarding local artifacts of historical significance that are sold off or donated and don't remain in the area. Erik Nordberg commented that when he becomes aware of donations, he notifies the local media sources of such donations in order to make the public aware of their historical significance and that it is in the best interest of the community to see that some of these collections and artifacts remain in the area. Fiala added that until the park has a policy and guidelines in place on donations of local records, he encourages people to donate to the MTU Archives, which has the expertise and facilities to house these donations.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

The next Advisory Commission meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 27, 1998 at 8:30 a.m.