

**Keweenaw National Historical Park Advisory Commission
Minutes of October 27, 1995 Meeting**

Present: Commissioners -

Burton Boyum, Quincy Mine Hoist Association
Clarence Dwyer, Houghton County Commissioner
Kathryn Eckert, State Historic Preservation Office
Larry Lankton, Michigan Technological University
Paul Lehto, Calumet Township Supervisor

National Park Service -

William Fink, KNHP Superintendent
Edward Yarbrough, KNHP Historian
Josef Balachowski, Historic Architect
Lynn Bjorkmann, Cultural Resources Planner
Mike Bureman, GMP team captain
Al Hutchings, Midwest Field Office

Recording Secretary -

Lisa Dwyer

Absent: Commissioners -

Peder Kitti, Calumet
Mary Tuisku, Mayor, Hancock

Other Participants/Guests:

Steve Albee – WUPPDR
Pastor Robert Langseth, Faith Lutheran Church, Calumet
Eric Nordberg - MTU Archives

Call to Order

A regular meeting of the Keweenaw National Historical Park Advisory Commission was held Tuesday, October 24, 1995 in Calumet, Michigan at the park headquarters. The meeting was called to order at 8:50 a.m. by Chair Paul Lehto.

Review of Minutes

The minutes of the August 22, 1995 KNHP Advisory Commission meeting were reviewed. On a motion by Larry Lankton and seconded by Kathryn Eckert, the minutes were approved with no additions or corrections.

Bill Fink said that he would like to have a notation made in the minutes recognizing the continuing services of the recording secretary of the Advisory Commission, Lisa Dwyer, of Michigan Technological University, who volunteers her time to attend the meetings.

Superintendent's Report

Bill Fink reported that it appears the operating budget for all of the parks will be within 1 or 2% of what was available last year, which would put the KNHP operating budget at about \$225,000. He said the ceiling for

full-time equivalency KNHP employees currently is three, and that number will probably not be increased for next year. Both he and Josef Balachowski are each considered full-time permanent employees so how the other FTE will be handled is still uncertain, he said.

Fink said he had a phone call recently from Barry Sarafin of ABC News in Washington, D.C. Sarafin saw the Wall Street Journal article that questioned the validity of KNHP's existence and was interested in seeing if there was a story to be told. Fink said he spoke with Sarafin at length and he felt Sarafin had an understanding and appreciation of non-traditional parks such as KNHP. He sent Sarafin a thick packet of information on the park.

Fink explained he was out of town for a few days and due to pressures of catching up with his work he was not able to send out the agenda ahead of time for today's meeting. He is concerned, he added, with how he will be able to continue indefinitely without administrative help.

Within the next few weeks, Fink said he will try to put out another Keweenaw National Historical Park Update. He invited the Advisory Commissioners and others to submit information they would like to see in the Update.

Fink said he would like to prepare a letter for Chair Paul Lehto's signature which would have the endorsement of the Advisory Commissioners. He would like to request that the Trust for Public Lands purchase properties critical to the park. Certain properties will play a role in the park so he feels there are very valid reasons to go to the Trust for Public Lands to request purchase of these properties. After some discussion on what properties would be important, Kathryn Eckert made a motion saying the Commissioners endorse the superintendent's proposal that the National Park Service acquire, through the Trust for Public Land, four lots on Sixth Street in Calumet and the Quincy Pay Office. Fink said that this could trigger activity to purchase other worthwhile properties, too. Lehto amended the motion by saying the Commissioners advise Fink to proceed on contacting the Trust For Public Lands to purchase four threatened vacant lots in Calumet; and Quincy properties; and/or other threatened properties. Eckert agreed. Larry Lankton seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Historical Architect's Report

Josef Balachowski said he has been looking at the Calumet Theater ballroom project. The acoustics are not good so he is trying to determine how to remedy that without destroying any of the historical integrity of the room and also keep the cost down.

He has taken a look at the St. Anne's Church. There seems to be a lot of water damage to the building and he can't determine yet how damaged the belfry is because of dirt and debris there. He also said he has ordered a software program that will help him go into buildings to systematically identify problems and at the same time be able to figure out projected costs of restoration. He is also going to be meeting with Stan Dyl, Curator of the Seamen Museum, to see if they can get a group of people together to begin investigating what can be done to house various aspects of the Seaman Mineralogical collections. He is working on rescuing a comprehensive pattern collection associated with the area mining industry and, finally, he said he has been attending local meetings and will continue to do so to speak of the benefits of historic preservation.

Research Historian's Report

Ed Yarbrough reported that the Historic Research study will be in final draft on January 15. He'll illustrate it and respond to remarks on it from the Midwest Regional Office. In the spring of 1996 he'll finish the special geological history study and the special ethnoreligious architecture study. Fink added that in addition to the bound paper document of Yarbrough's study, they will investigate whether it can be put on CD ROM. The level of detail would be much more extensive and more economical if this was done, he explained.

Preservation District Progress Report

Lynn Bjorkmann stated that the yearlong Preservation District progress report is complete and it has been sent to the State Historic Preservation Office in compliance with the grant Bjorkmann is working under. She said she is currently preparing duplicates of the products of her report including surveys, maps, and photographs of structures and properties in the village of Calumet, Laurium and Calumet Township. Her products will be used for preservation efforts and also general planning efforts and be given to the units of local government for their use.

Chairman's Report

Paul Lehto gave brief report saying four vacant lots on Sixth Street in Calumet are priced at \$50,000 to \$80,000. He is concerned that these lots will not be able to be purchased for park purposes.

Lehto said the GMP plans were reviewed at a recent Calumet meeting. Comments made regarding the significance statement, the historic ordinances, and the park boundaries around Laurium and the Cliff Mine site will be passed on to Mike Bureman.

Reports and Comments from the Commissioners

Burt Boyum distributed an article recently published in Skillings Mining Review (see attachment), a national and international publication, which featured a story on the tramway site. He explained that Quincy Mine Hoist Association has received a grant from EDA for \$420,000 to build the tramway. The grant of \$420,000 will be applied toward a total cost of \$600,000 making QMHA's share \$180,000. As of last week, Boyum said \$131,000 has been raised. A target date to complete the bid documents is set for November 30, 1995. The bid documents for the tramcar should be complete by December 30, 1995. Completion time for construction of the tramway is set for 1997.

Boyum then spoke of the Quincy mine hoist saying that it was designed by Bruno Nordberg and built by his company in 1920. It is said to be the world's largest steam powered mine hoist. The current owners of the Nordberg Mfg. Co., headquartered in Finland, recently honored the late Nordberg in a ceremony held at the Quincy mine hoist site. A bronze bust of Nordberg was unveiled. Boyum went on to say he has a short video of the ceremony and will show it after today's meeting.

Kathryn Eckert said she would like to stress the importance of continued use of the historic district ordinance study made by Lynn Bjorkmann. Fink responded by saying Josef Balachowski will begin taking on the role of being the preservation awareness and education person. He added that steps will be taken to assure that Bjorkmann continue for several months. Paul Lehto asked Eckert to make a motion regarding the continuance of Bjorkmann's study. Eckert made a motion that the KNHP Advisory Commission advise the park superintendent to find a creative solution to keep in place a historic preservation planner for the benefit of the communities within the Park and for the Park as a whole. Burt Boyum seconded. Motion carried.

Eckert stated that she would like to see a program to educate the public on what is appropriate treatment and what is not appropriate treatment when they are spending money on restoring their historic buildings.

In conclusion to Eckert's report, she said she has received a grant to complete a manuscript on the sandstone architecture of the region here.

Larry Lankton asked Fink, in terms of FTE's, if it were possible to hire someone through Tech's payroll or the village's payroll in order to get around National Park Service hiring and employment constraints. Fink said it might be possible through a Cooperative Agreement. Lankton then asked Fink what the status is of the Cooperative Agreement. Fink said that he and Burt Boyum have drafted a model and sent it to the Omaha Office for comments. Fink is also trying to get a hold of a sample university cooperative agreement. He would like to see a university agreement between MTU and the park in order to gain access to the expertise that MTU can offer the park effort.

In another matter, Lankton stated that his primary concern is over the continuing loss of structures which are a part of the park. He said his top priority is the stabilization of structures. Lankton made a motion to formally acknowledge the that the continuing deterioration of key structures within the park boundaries is a very critical problem that we have and priority should be put on the stabilization of the buildings that are in jeopardy. Seconded by Burt Boyum. Motion carried.

Lankton suggested that if there were some projects which need to be done in the park, it is possible that he could ask interested students in his Copper Country class to volunteer to help. He would need to know of a work project well in advance in order to carry out the request. He would oversee the student work and give academic credit to students working on park projects.

Clarence Dwyer said he has been trying to work with the state to get it more involved with the park effort. Eckert mentioned that she is surprised that no one representing the state is at today's meeting. Fink said he does send notices out prior to meetings. It was mentioned that perhaps individual meeting notification letters should be sent to state representatives. Dwyer said he is going to make it his business as a politician to keep prodding the state to be involved with the park effort.

Al Hutchings said he applauds the positive efforts that are being made regarding KNHP saying that money is tight and its pretty hard on all parks, but especially developing parks such as KNHP. He said he also feels that the resolutions passed today should not only go to the Midwest Field Director, Bill Schenk, but also to Director, Roger Kennedy, who he said has much more control over discretionary funds. Hutchings assured the Advisory Commission that Field Director, Bill Schenk, has made a commitment to support, and will do whatever he can to help in this park's efforts. Hutchings added that he is sure this means continuing the work that Lynn Bjorkmann is doing. In conclusion, Hutchings praised Bill Fink for presenting the right side of the story in spite of the bad publicity that the Wall Street Journal article portrayed.

Paul Lehto asked if the minutes are sent out to Director Roger Kennedy and Kate Stevenson of the Department of Interior. Fink said the minutes have not been widely distributed and suggested that he include them with the distribution of his Keweenaw National Historical Park Update.

Burt Boyum asked Fink if there has been revisions made on the EPA reports regarding hazardous wastes at certain sites in and around the park boundaries. Boyum said he was under the impression that legal personnel of the Park Service were going to contact the EPA to see if the EPA would back down on some of the positions taken in the report. Fink said after meeting with the EPA Chicago office, the Park Service attorney informed Fink that there are valid concerns in the report. Fink added that a reevaluation probably won't be done until there is a firm need for it such as the Smelter being offered to the Park. Al Hutchings explained that the federal government is cautious because it expended millions and millions of dollars to clean up toxic waste sites it has inherited. Therefore, if there is even a possibility of a hazardous site, the government takes precautionary procedures. Boyum said he would like to go on record saying the EPA report "stinks" particularly as it relates to the Smelter site stating that there geographical errors in the report and they didn't "know the difference between stamp sand and slag."

GMP Team Captain Mike Bureman

Mike Bureman said that during September, four meetings were held in Calumet, Houghton, Marquette, and Lansing to publicize the GMP alternatives. Most people seem to favor alternative plan number four. Calumet had the largest turnout with the main concern being the preservation ordinances. There will be GPM alternative workshops at the beginning of the year, Bureman continued. He added that Kathryn Eckert put him in contact with an attorney and his wife who are from Grand Rapids, Michigan and involved in the historic preservation network in Michigan. They will come up to at the beginning of the year and conduct workshops on the Michigan laws concerning historic preservation.

Reports and Comments from Special Guests

Pastor Robert Langseth suggested that instead of including the Advisory Commission minutes with Fink's Park Update, send them separately. He said this would be effective because it gives two levels of communication.

In another matter, Pastor Langseth said that St. Anne's Church was turned down by a major foundation for funding because the church is not individually listed on the National Register. Even though the church is located in a National Historic Landmark district in a historical park and it met all the requirements, this was not good enough for that foundation, he said. (Pastor Langseth preferred not to mention the foundation.) He just wanted to stress the importance of being listed on the National Register. Kathryn Eckert said she feels the foundation in question did not understand the National Register program and she asked Pastor Langseth to give her the name of his contact and she would be happy to write a letter to the foundation addressing this issue.

Pastor Langseth also suggested that a consortium of some kind could be put together to address the issue of deterioration of the structures within the park.

Eric Nordberg suggested that the Park Service consider educating the public on historic preservation in a reasonably inexpensively way by taking a mining company house or downtown structure and go through the process of doing a survey and a renovation and invite local members of the community to watch that process. A good way to fund this type of project, he continued, is upon completion of the restoration, sell the property, roll the money over, and put it into another project. This could be done on a continuing basis.

Jim Boyce, a Houghton County Commissioner, said he would like to comment that there is a general mistrust of government by the public so he feels that education of the public is fundamentally important to achieve the goals and objectives of the park.

Steve Albee commented on Lynn Bjorkmann's preservation district study involving 1400 properties saying the study cost approximately \$100,000 according to Jim Stingle, Director of WUPPDR, with more than 1500 hours in volunteer time.

Albee said WUPPDR doesn't want to see the project slip away because a way can't be figured out to maintain the momentum of it.

WUPPDR has started the U.S. 41 corridor study, Albee said. He also requested that the Advisory Commissioners take a stand or make some kind of resolution regarding the importance of the corridor study. If the Advisory Commission supplied WUPPDR with a resolution or letter, perhaps it could be incorporated with Stingle's effort to alert the highway department of the importance the corridor and its resources play in the park.

Albee asked Kathryn Eckert to report on the status of the housing rehabilitation meeting held last spring. Eckert said a document has been prepared and the next step is to send a letter from the Advisory Commission to Jim Stingle asking him to prepare a memorandum of agreement so that the housing rehabilitation plan can become operational for creating affordable housing in the western Upper Peninsula region. Eckert made a motion that the Advisory Commission encourage the director of the Western Upper Peninsula Planning and Development Region office to prepare a memorandum of agreement between the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, WUPPDR, and the State Historic Preservation Office on conducting housing rehabilitations with CDBG (Community Development Block Grants) and HUD money. Seconded by Clarence Dwyer. Motion carried. Then Eckert asked Albee if WUPPDR would be the agency to prepare an application for Houghton County or the Houghton County Road Commission to submit to MDOT for ISTEA (Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991) money to conduct the inventory on the 41 corridor? Paul Lehto asked Albee to check into the procedure.

Erik Nordberg of the MTU Archives said that there has been a marked increase in research and use of the Archives on topics such as land usage in the area. He asked if the Advisory Commission could sponsor, or at least give some additional assistance, in establishing some sort of resource network by which the Archives could mimic what is occurring with inventory and classification of physical structures in order for it to have an understanding of documentary resources on this area. More and more researchers are using the Archives and there is a lack of understanding where the resources are for doing in-depth, deeper research, Nordberg said. He would like to see a network go into place whereby various entities and local historical agencies can work in conjunction with each other so that when researchers arrive they can be pointed in the right direction.

Nordberg announced that the Mining History Association will be meeting here in Houghton in June of 1997. He said he feels it is an important group for the park initiative. The membership consists of about 500 active mining historians, park service people, mining buffs, and people who have an interest in mining history preservation and interpretation. They have been meeting on an annual basis in historic mining districts around the west. The meeting in the Keweenaw is the first time the group will meet east of the Plains. Nordberg invited anyone interested to attend. This should be a great opportunity for the Keweenaw to show a very important group what is going on here in the Keweenaw, he concluded.

The following dates were set for 1996 Advisory Commission meetings:

Tuesday, February 6, 1996
Tuesday, May 21, 1996
Tuesday, August 6, 1996
Tuesday, October 29, 1996

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.