

MINUTES OF THE DALLES
HISTORICAL LANDMARKS COMMISSION SPECIAL MEETING
October 5, 1994 Library Meeting Room

Due to audio problems minutes are compiled from memory and notes only.

Chairman Gleason called the meeting to order with the entire Commission present: Pat May, Eric Kleiner, Eric Gleason, Jacqueline Cheung, John Skirving and Advisory, Grady Seufert.

STAFF PRESENT Scott Keillor, Gene Parker, and Kay Prouty

GUESTS: Mural Society Members, Gary & Barbara Honald

PUBLIC HEARING:

Continuation of Historical Landmarks Review #20-94 of The Dalles Mural Society for painting of a 12' by 60' mural depicting Celilo Falls and Native Americans at the fishing grounds. Mural would be placed on the Federal Street side of the brick building located at 400-406 East 2nd Street. The building is a contributing resource located in the Downtown Historic District known as the Williams Hardware Building (1908).

Gleason asked if any Commissioner wished to declare ex-parte contact or conflict of interest.

Cheung said she had attended a Wasco County Historical Society meeting and there was some discussion of the proposed mural by the other members but she did not participate in the discussion. Cheung said she had also attended a private party and spoke with members of the Mural Society.

Parker asked if the mural was discussed with the Mural Society members.

Cheung said there was no discussion of the mural.

Gleason said he would declare the same ex-parte as Cheung as he had attended the same functions.

Gleason then asked if anyone from the audience wished to challenge any of the Commissioners. Hearing none, Gleason asked if the staff had comments on the staff report.

Skirving said that as a Commission we represent the citizens of the city and he did not feel this request from the Mural Society was pertinent. He said the building owners should be allowed to make the decision.

Seufert asked why this meeting was being held. She said the request was killed at last weeks meeting.

Gleason said HLC 20-94 was continued and we are here to make a decision for the request to place a mural.

Keillor said we are here to make a decision on the request from the Mural Society to place a mural on the Federal Street side of the building at 400 East 2nd Street. Keillor said he had spoken with Henry Kinowski from SHPO and that the SHPO would not approve of painting a mural directly onto the brick of a contributing historic building but would not object to panel mounting the mural if the attachment brackets were in the grout lines of the brick. Keillor said that included in the papers passed out to the Commission was a article from the National Trust Publication of 1988 titled "Masonry: how to care for old and historic brick and stone". Keillor also passed out details of the frame mounted mural on Craigs Office Supplies from Gerald Richmond. He said all the brackets on that building are in the grout lines. Keillor said considering the letter presented from the Mural Society President, Steve Bennett that staff would recommend that the hearing be reopened for public testimony.

Gleason asked if any member of the Commission had questions of staff.

Skirving said that other brick building in the downtown area have been painted and that we must be fair. He said we should allow the mural to be painted on the brick.

PROPONENTS:

Steve Bennett, President of The Dalles Mural Society

Bennett said the Mural Society members had reviewed Ordinance 880 and felt that the findings would allow the mural to be painted on the building. Bennett read a letter of justifying their request into the record. He said the Mural Society is asking that the HLC to reconsider the request for painting a mural on the building at 400 East 2nd Street. He said the Society's goal is to enhance the Federal Street corridor and this mural would complete the corridor.

May asked what type of paint would be used to paint the mural.

Bennett said it would be an oil base paint. He said we must rely on the painting professionals to use the best paint in the safest manner on the brick.

May said some paints act as a preservative for brick.

Bennett said the Mural Society has a keen interest in maintaining historic buildings and sites. He said the Mural Society have plans to assist in restoring old buildings. Bennett said we all need to compromise and work together to make the downtown area beautiful and retain the historic features.

Bennett said all the distinctive elements of the Williams Building should be preserved. He said paint can be removed but panels mounted on the building will destroy the brick. He said the property owners asked that the mural be painted onto the building and object to mounting panels for the mural. Bennett said he had checked with paint professionals and the paint could be removed from brick without causing damage. He said he would hope that the mural would never need to be removed.

Kleiner asked how the paint used for the murals would ever be removed.

Bennett said these concerns had been discussed with citizens of other communities that have removed murals but he said he did not know the process.

May said these other communities referred to by Bennett may not be on the historic register.

Skirving said if this building is constructed with two brick walls there may not be enough support to mount a mural on the side of the building.

Bennett said the supports of the building had not examined to see if the structure would support the mural if painted on panels and hung.

Gleason asked Bennett if he could comment on Finding A-2 of the staff report which states that "...all decorative sills, lintels, windows and cornices should remain visible and unaltered".

Bennett said all parts of the building will be left in tack. He said only a portion of the wall will be painted and the character of the building will be left untouched. Bennett said the mural would be positioned to allow removal of the mural without destroying the integrity of the building. He said the mural would enhance the details of the building.

Skirving asked what assurance there would be for the maintenance or removal of the mural in the future.

Bennett said the Mural Society has a fund for maintenance and an

agreement with the property owner.

Kleiner asked what would happen to the agreement with the property owner should the building be sold.

Bennett said the agreement for the mural maintenance goes with the property.

OPPONENTS:

None

Gleason closed the public testimony portion of the hearing.

COMMISSION DELIBERATION

Skirving said the Commission has allowed other murals and painting of other buildings within the historic district and we should allow this project to be completed.

Skirving moved to allow the mural to be painted directly on the brick surface of the building at 400 East 2nd Street.

May seconded the motion.

Kleiner said a certain amount of consideration must go to the applicant. He said just because something happened before this request does not mean we must allow the wrong doing to continue.

Kleiner said he had talked to other professionals in the architecture field about this project. He said he asked how they would deal with the mural being painted on a historic brick building. He said the architects asked if it would be altering the historic character of the building. Kleiner said he was wrong in his feelings and said he would agree about staying away from the characters of the building when placing a mural.

Kleiner said in the future he would encourage the Mural Society to come forward early before projects are started for input from city staff and the Historic Landmarks Commission.

Kleiner said he had toured the Federal Street corridor and reviewed the other murals and said he felt the murals that are in place cramp the architecture of the buildings. Kleiner said he felt it was important to scale the mural to the building. Kleiner said he had scaled the proposed mural to the building and felt this mural would fit the building well without crowding the character of the building.

Kleiner said he would recommend that the Mural Society use the murals to dress up the ugly buildings of the City. He said he felt the mural on the Craig Office building looked like a billboard.

Kleiner said he had discussed the question of paint vs. attaching panels to a brick building with other architects. He said the general consensus was to agree that panels would be better for the preservation of the brick but Kleiner said maybe there are new paints that he was not familiar with that could be easily removed. Kleiner said he felt the mural painted on the flat wall would be more attractive than mounting panels.

May said she had been to other communities where murals are painted on all their historic buildings. She said The Dalles should have this mural for a tribute to the Indians Tribes.

Skirving said he wanted to complement the owners of the building at 400 East 2nd Street for their restoration of the building.

Cheung said she had looked at the building in question and she feels the building is in tact and attractive as is. She said she had also been reading books about removing paint from brick and most of the methods for paint removal use acid and cause certain reactions to the brick.

Gleason said this is an attractive building as is. He said he felt the mural would distract from the architecture of the building. Gleason said the mural will not retain the historic character of the building.

Gleason said we have a motion and a second to approve the mural being painted on the brick building at 400 East 2nd Street.

The motion passed with Kleiner, May, and Skirving voting yes and Gleason and Cheung voting no.

Skirving left the meeting at 5:00 PM at the end of the agenda items.

ORDER

Kleiner moved to approve Historic Landmark Order No. 20-94 as amended. Cheung seconded and the motion passes unanimously.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:30 PM.

Respectfully Submitted, Eric B. Gleason Eric Gleason, Chairman

KS for SK Scott Keillor, Secretary