

Sterling-Moorman House Committee

Thursday, August 25, 2011

5:30 p.m.

Utility Building, 112 Anderson Rd.

Attending:

Patricia Chambers

Venus Bratsveen

Scott Wilbanks

Lowell Mock

Susan Beeman

Ron Hall

1. Call to Order:

Patricia called the meeting to order at 5:30 a.m.

2. Approval of Minutes:

Approval of the minutes from the July 14, 2011 meeting were approved as distributed.

3. Old Business: Vision Statement Development – World Exercise Results

Patricia explained that the text from the postcards created in last month's vision exercise were entered into a web site (www.wordle.net) which returns text designs based on a frequency counter. The more frequently used words are shown in larger type on the resulting word collage.

Discussion followed. Ron talked about similar building restoration projects that he visited in his travels this summer. These included:

- The Dahmen Barn in Colton -- <http://www.artisanbarn.org>
- The Bigelow House Museum in Olympia -- <http://www.bigelowhouse.org/>
- The Old Hotel Art Gallery in Othello -- <http://www.oldhotelartgallery.com/>

The group reviewed mission statements or purpose statements from each of these web sites, and discussion continued with conversation about language that might be borrowed for use with our project. Lowell said that he doesn't think that strictly a living history or reenactment situation will be a big enough draw to bring people to the building. He would like to see some purpose for the building which would bring visitors to it regularly, such as a chamber of commerce or visitor center.

Discussion continued on how construction of the carriage house, with its restrooms and kitchen facilities, would impact the uses of the house. Ron stated that the three words that stood out to him from both the Wordle exercise and the discussion were "preserve," "restore," and "community." The group concluded that our focus should be to preserve and restore the

original Sterling-Moorman House, and to facilitate its role as an activity center for small community groups by maximizing the usefulness of both the carriage house facility, and the outdoor space surrounding the house. Proximity to the Post Office, and being within walking distance from the University and the downtown Cheney Historical Museum, are features we can build on.

4. New Business: Establishing the Organization

Susan shared examples of some operational agreements that have been formed between non-profit organizations and local governments for the operation of museum or other historic city-owned buildings.

Discussion continued.

Ron suggested that Google Documents would be a resource we could use to develop the collaborative vision process.

Patti described our efforts to this point as identifying words, and she asked that each participant now begin to put the words together into sentences.

Vision: What do we see that we want as the end result?

Mission: How are we going to get there?

The assignment is to write down a couple of sentences for each of the following, and email them to Susan prior to our next meeting.

Next Meeting: Thursday, September 8, 2011, 5:30 p.m. at the Utility Building.

Meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Submitted by:

Susan Beeman
Acting Secretary