

Keweenaw National Historical Park Advisory Commission Minutes of October 28, 1997 Meeting

Present: Commissioners -

Burt Boyum, Quincy Mine Hoist Association
Kathryn Eckert, (former) State Historic Preservation Officer
Larry Lankton, Michigan Technological University
Paul Lehto, Calumet Township Supervisor
Mary Tuisku, Council Person, City of Hancock

National Park Service -

Frank Fiala, KNHP Superintendent
Josef Balachowski, Historical Architect
Edward Yarbrough, Research Historian
Lynn Bjorkman, Community Planner
Al Hutchings, Associate Regional Director
for Legislation and Policy

Recording Secretary -

Lisa Dwyer, Michigan Technological University

Absent: Commissioner -

Clarence Dwyer, Houghton County Commissioner

Call to Order

A regular meeting of the Keweenaw National Historical Park Advisory Commission was held Tuesday, October 28, 1997, in Calumet, Michigan at Park Headquarters. The meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m.

Review of Minutes

The minutes of the August 19, 1997, KNHP Advisory Commission meeting were reviewed. On a motion by Mary Tuisku and seconded by Larry Lankton, the minutes were approved with no additions or corrections.

Superintendent's Report

Frank Fiala reported that at the General Management Plan meetings held September 22 and 23, strong support was shown for Alternative Plan #4. November 5 has been set aside by the park staff for their review of the GMP at which time they will collate all the comments from the public and make minor revisions and corrections. The plan will be forwarded to the Planning Team by November 10 and the revisions should be done by the end of 1997. According to the time schedule, the document will go to print January 26, 1998 and it should be back to Fiala by early March. It will go out to the public. There is a 30-day notice because of the Environmental Impact Statement involved. The document is scheduled to be signed, completed, and ready for implementation by April 1998.

The park staff along with Larry Lankton met recently with the directors of the Quincy Mine Hoist Association to discuss a sand and crushed rock operation at the Smelter. An exit plan was crafted for that operation.

The Ventures Group is working with the cities of Hancock and Houghton, the National Park, and the townships involved regarding developmental proposals for the Smelter. The number one priority for all groups is the preservation of the smelter area and all are working collectively to put together a resolution for the smelter project.

There will be a need to implement some new changes in terms of the way the Advisory Commission does business. All seats on the commission have expired, according to Fiala. There will be a new call for commission members. He is working on making the commission an operating commission with a much more responsible role in terms of doing what the legislation asked it to do. He attended a recent meeting with the park service's regional director to find a way to fund the commission in order to accommodate the duties that it has. In the meantime, the park staff will work on the guidelines needed in order to make the transition from an advisory commission to an operating one.

Fiala invited people to read a recent newspaper article titled, *Welcome to Any Place USA*, written by an attorney and land use planner, who is in the historic preservation business. The article concerns his reflections on visiting historic areas and what historic preservation means and does for an area's integrity and character.

Fiala said he recently went to Omaha to talk about reallocation of funding for KNHP. He hopes to get some extra funding this fiscal year and said his top priority in terms of funding is to be sure that he has a full complement of park staff for the year. There are no budget figures yet. All parks are still operating under a continuing resolution.

Fiala thanked the park staff and others who helped organize the 5th birthday celebration of KNHP held October 27, 1997.

Historical Architect's Report

Josef Balachowski reported that he is working on a development concept plan for the Quincy Mine Hoist area. That plan will include a description of the site, and will discuss preservation of the buildings, landscapes and artifacts, interpretive themes, and year round use. There will be three or four alternatives to the plan.

Balachowski is doing a preliminary condition assessment report of all of the structures at the Quincy Smelter. Some of this will be based on past studies done by Hitch Inc. as well as documentation done by the Historic American Engineering Record (HAER).

Research Historian's Report

Ed Yarbrough reported on his activities. His 800 page Historic Resource Study is currently being reviewed by Larry Lankton. Yarbrough is also working with Coppertown U.S.A. on ways to build volunteerism there. He is working with the Calumet Theater on a search to find a new executive director as well as helping with the proscenium project. He has been talking with Jim Vivian Jr. and Burt Boyum of the Quincy Mine Hoist Association about a walking tour there and modeling it after the Calumet walking tour. He is working with Josef Balachowski, Larry Lankton, and John Sullivan on the Quincy Mine Hoist concept plan for that area. He is working on the descriptions of the historic resources in the GMP review. He is looking for a winter site for the Quincy Smelter exhibit in the Hoist House because the Hoist is closed during the winter months. He is trying to arrange to have volunteers put the Calumet walking tour on the world-wide web site. He is putting together an historical synopsis of the Quincy Smelting works for use by the committee that is looking into its adaptive reuse. He will be getting his Historic Resource Study camera-ready for copy.

Community Planner's Report

Lynn Bjorkman reported that under Jim Boyce's direction she has been looking at land use including a renewed focus on the U.S. 41 corridor. Agassiz Park research is continuing and she is working with the Calumet Village planning commission on a master plan for that space. She is embarking on Phase II of her survey photographing and documenting 1500 properties. This part of the survey will focus on mining company housing. She distributed a report on the Investment Database project, which she has been working on over the past year with volunteers John Garbor and Steve Albee. This project details the kind of investments local

government units have made since the advent of the park in 1992. Plans are to go further with the study with the addition of non-profit cooperating site investments. Bjorkman commented that it was interesting to talk with people at the units about their perception of the park. Most felt that it has spurred on many projects in the area. The Investment Database could be a project the commission could take over with continual updating and investment information. This information could be strategic and aid in writing grants and locating new money.

John Garbor said that he would like to thank Bjorkman for her hard work and perseverance on the database and noted that it is not complete but instead will be an ongoing project.

Comments from the Associate Regional Director

Al Hutchings said there is no NPS budget in place, yet, and parks are still working under continuing resolution. He does know that there will be small increases in funding for all of the parks. Efforts are underway with the National Leadership Council to try to assure that the new parks will get a little larger share of funding than the larger traditional parks in terms of percentages though not in terms of massive amounts of dollars. Hutchings recommended that, in order to help get the operating powers of the Advisory Commission implemented, our congressional delegation needs to aid in this task.

Chairman's Report

Paul Lehto reported that Clarence Dwyer seems to be recovering well from injuries he received in an auto accident. Larry Lankton made a motion on behalf of the Advisory Commission to pass on best wishes to Clarence Dwyer for a full recovery and quick return to the Advisory Commission. Seconded by Kathryn Eckert.

Lehto suggested that when installation of the Advisory Commission members is completed (all commissioner's terms have expired), this could be a good time to elect a new chair of the commission if that is what is desired.

Lehto asked Fiala if the Advisory Commission agenda for the meetings can be changed once it is posted in the Federal Register Fiala said no, but he is working on changing the format of the agenda in order to allow for more flexibility with it.

Committee Reports

No reports from the Finance and Park Operations Committee or the Preservation Planning Committee. However, Larry Lankton of the Preservation Committee asked what the status is on Isle Royal Natural History Association affiliating with KNHP. Fiala said he recommends the affiliation and a meeting is scheduled in November with Isle Royale History Association board members to discuss it. Fiala explained that the association raises money from retail sales of books and brochures at visitor centers and other outlets and the revenue generated from these sales supports interpretive programs within the park.

Reports from Commissioners

Paul Lehto reported that St. Anne's Church received a \$100,000 grant from the Council for the Arts and Cultural Affairs. Funds will be used to install a new furnace, new floor in the basement, and repair work on the bell tower.

Lehto said he has been working on a project with the Geology Department at Michigan Tech to catalog the vast amounts of mine core presently stored at various location around the area. The Geology Department has written a narrative to be presented to the state, perhaps as a grant, to find out what is of value and what is not. The Advisory Commission gave Lehto permission to use commission stationery to help push this project forward.

Mary Tuisku suggested that Lynn Bjorkman send copies of the Investment Database to local units of government to inform them of how important it is to know what investments have been made. The database could also aid them in determining what other investments to report. Tuisku said the City of Hancock has broken ground for townhouses on the waterfront. The city is working with developers to make sure that the "entrance" to the park is complimentary to the essence of the park.

Burt Boyum reported that attendance at the Quincy Mine Hoist set a record, probably due to the tramway. Total revenues for 1997 from admissions was \$141,000. The gift shop took in \$48,000. QMHA appreciates the use of the rock and mineral displays at the Hoist from the Seaman Mineralogical Museum at Michigan Tech.

Boyum explained that the QMHA still has the lease on the Quincy Smelter and has been working with retired architect, John Haro, who has developed plans for adaptive reuse of the smelter. The plans are to start with a modest project and build from there. QMHA is working on acquiring the Pay Office building with the idea of holding it for the National Park Service until it would be an asset for the park. One concept suggested to park officials is the rental/purchase plan whereby the park service would pay rent on the building and at the end of a certain number of years the park service would then own it.

Larry Lankton discussed the changes being made to the Quincy Mine site by the sand and crushed rock operation there. At its conclusion, this operation should leave the ground level at the site at an appropriate elevation, one that has some basis in historical fact. For instance, near the old No. 4 shaft, we might want to take the ground level back to where it was around the 1880s.

Lankton stated that he has a continuing concern about the land on the opposite side of Highway U.S. 41 at the Quincy site. There needs to be concern about protecting open ground, and the sites having buildings on them.

Lankton reminded everyone that he has a continuing flow of undergraduate students through his classes and, if help is needed for some kind of manual labor, let him know. He needs advance notice so that he would be able to work this into his class planning.

Lankton spoke of the Industrial Archaeology graduate program at Michigan Tech and its ties to the park and to the history of this area. A class currently being taught by Social Sciences faculty member, Kim Hoagland, is recording historic structures in the area. An IA graduate student is doing a study of Ahmeek for her master's thesis, and another IA graduate student is doing his thesis on what use to be the industrial waterfront between Hancock and Ripley.

Lankton added that the Quincy Smelter is an important site so anything that works toward its adaptive reuse would be a great addition to the park.

Kathryn Eckert reported on her activities, saying she is now the advisor for the National Trust for Michigan. She recently attended the annual meeting of the National Trust for Historic Preservation held in Santa Fe. Eckert also announced that there will be a preservation leadership training workshop in June 1998 to be held in Traverse City. There will be 30 places for attendees at this workshop and it is scheduled to last one week.

Eckert said the State Historic Preservation Office and the Michigan Historic Preservation Network are going to put together a workshop on lighthouse stewardship. There will be many lighthouses in Michigan that will be coming up for disposal in the near future. She added that it looks like there will be a direct transfer of the Eagle Harbor lighthouse to Keweenaw County Historical Society.

Eckert said that, Ed McMahon, the author of the article, *Welcome to Any Place U.S.* (referred to earlier in the meeting by Fiala) visited the counties of Leelanau and Benzie last summer. She said that he is a dynamite speaker and knows he would be available to come to this area to speak on land use interests.

Eckert will be attending the AIA National Historical County Courthouse conference in Cincinnati next week and presenting a talk on courthouses, which use indigenous materials on their exteriors. She will be citing examples such as the Houghton County Courthouse constructed with Copper Country materials, the Marquette Courthouse made of sandstone, and the cement courthouse in Alpena.

Comments from the Legislative Staff

Laurie Bink of Senator Spencer Abraham's office spoke of the senator's visit to the area last summer, adding that he is very interested in the history of this area. Bink said to let her office know what it can do to help with the process of implementing the Advisory Commission's operating powers. Bink informed Lynn Bjorkman that she would check with the Library of Congress because she believes there are records there that record the money spent in each county.

Kevin Morter of Senator Carl Leven's office made the assurance that he would keep the senator informed on park activities.

Ann Jousma-Miller of Representative Paul Tesanovich's office said in her visits to the area she has seen the increased enthusiasm and partnership develop from the time of the park's inception to now. She added that the database is very important and shows that the park is legitimate and it will serve to bring out additional information.

Amy Wisti of Congressman Bart Stupak's staff said his office has been working on efforts to activate the Advisory Commission's operating powers. The database should do much to impress upon the people in Washington D.C. on what has gone into this park at the local level. She added that it would be interesting to see what the dollar value would be on the volunteer hours.

Comments and Questions from the Public

Sue Cone, comptroller of the Village of Calumet, said the village is assisting property owners in sidewalk replacement. Red aggregate was put in the sidewalk mix to duplicate the red coloration the sidewalks had in past years. A rental rehab federal grant was recently acquired by the village in the amount of \$150,000. There will be another \$100,000 added to it. Cone asked Fiala if Josef Balachowski could review the intended work that will be done to insure that it is historically accurate. Fiala indicated that Balachowski would be able to assist in the project.

Cone asked Mary Tuisku if she knew how the entrance road to the new hospital site is going to affect the appearance of the Quincy area. Tuisku said that the city is still working with Paul Tomasi, who has a vested interest there, in the rerouting of that road. The city of Hancock offered him seven options but as of now, only one is acceptable to him. Tuisku added that the Hancock City council and city manager, Glen Anderson, are sensitive to the impact the road would have on that section of the U.S. 41 corridor.

Joseph Mihall reported on some of the Calumet street projects. Nineteen light poles on Fifth Street will be replaced with forty light poles and these will replicate what had been there in the 1920s. Asphalt needs to be done on the 300 block of Fifth Street. A grant needs to be found for that project. Calumet is also looking at ways to go back to the brick used on Pine Street and some of the side streets. The Sixth Street surface, at one time, was of concrete stamped to look like bricks. The cost to replicate this look is estimated at \$750,000 to \$1,000,000. The cost to asphalt would be \$60,000 to \$100,000.

Mihall spoke about the proscenium project at the Calumet Theater involving the bare area above the stage. The project is intended to have that area over the stage look like it did in 1900. A Milwaukee firm is recreating the paintings that were originally in that space. There should be about 250 square feet of murals when the \$20,000 project is complete in addition to much volunteer work.

Reverend Robert Langseth expressed concern regarding the draft GMP (page 26, left hand column) which states, in effect, that while the superintendent of KNHP would have full responsibility for managing KNHP, he would administratively answer to the Isle Royale National Park superintendent. Fiala explained that under the recent park reorganization this was determined to be a more efficient way to operate. He went on to say that, the regional director, in the past, supervised all 50 regional park superintendents as well as the regional park staff. The Isle Royale superintendent is also the senior of the two positions. Fiala said that for the short term, this arrangement is fine, but there will probably be another opportunity to address this issue when the Isle Royale superintendent retires.

Al Hutchings pointed out that Fiala recently went to the park service regional office and dealt directly with the regional director on issues of finance, planning, and staffing. KNHP, to its benefit, will be taking some resources from Isle Royale. Isle Royale provides this kind of arrangement to other parks as well, such as Pictured Rocks. It was suggested to word that section differently to clarify what administrative reporting means and how it will work since it doesn't seem to be clear right now. The comment was made that it needs to be made clear that this park is independent. Fiala made assurances that he has been charged with rewriting that section on behalf of the planning team to clear up this issue.

Reverend Langseth reported that St. Anne's Church is in need of a design architect on a volunteer basis to help with its renovation. Larry Lankton said he will check with an architect he recently spoke with who works for the architectural firm of Albert Kahn in lower Michigan. This person apparently has family ties in the area.

Reverend Langseth distributed information on how the public can contribute money toward the rehabilitation of St. Anne's Church, which will house the Keweenaw Heritage Center. He explained that community foundations have been in existence for quite some time downstate. These foundations are now being developed in the U.P. The Greater Keweenaw Community Foundation covers both Keweenaw and Houghton County. Contributions made to the Keweenaw Heritage Center can be channeled through the Greater Keweenaw Community Foundation, which is an endowment fund in which the principle is never spent but the interest on the money is used. The state of Michigan provides a direct tax credit toward the contributor's Michigan taxes. Gifts to the Keweenaw Heritage Center Endowment Fund also qualify for a match from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation with this money going to youth programs within the community.

Fiala added that the Advisory Commission attended a recent presentation regarding community foundations to learn how they operate. He said that once the Advisory Commission has its operating powers in place this will allow the commission to accept raised money and donations as well. These kinds of donations will fund the non-federal aspect of the park and people should understand that they would not be giving money to the federal government, but instead investing dollars back into the community.

The following dates were set for the 1998 Advisory Commission meetings:

- Tuesday, February 24, 1998, 8:30 a.m.
- Tuesday, June 9, 1998, 8:30 a.m.
- Tuesday, August 18, 1998, 8:30 a.m.
- Tuesday, October 27, 1998, 8:30 a.m.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.