



Meeting

April 15, 2014

Present: Commissioners
Stephen Albee, At-Large
Kim Hoagland, At-Large
Allan Johnson, State of Michigan
Ed Jenich, Houghton County Board of Commissioners
Bob Langseth, Calumet Township

Present: Executive Director
Scott See

Present: Keweenaw National Historical Park
Mike Pflaum, Superintendent
Brian Hoduski, Chief of Museum Services
Tom Baker, Management Assistant

Present: Recording Secretary
Vacant!

Present: Guests
Judy Albee, Community Member
Mark Rowe, Keweenaw County Historical Society
Art Limback, Calumet Theatre
Virginia Jamison, Keweenaw County Historical Society
Jean Pemberton, Copper Range Historical Society
Amy Berglund, Senator Carl Levin's Office (on speaker phone)

Call to Order

A regular meeting of the Keweenaw National Historical Park Advisory Commission was called at 9:01 a.m., April 15, 2014, at the Keweenaw NHP headquarters in Calumet, Michigan.

Approval of Agenda

Moved by Stephen Albee and seconded by Ed Jenich to approve the agenda as presented.

Motion Carried Unanimously. (5/0)

Approval of Minutes of January 14, 2014

Approval of the minutes, edited by Kim Hoagland, as presented was moved by Steve Albee and seconded by Ed Jenich. **Motion Carried Unanimously. (5/0)**

Executive Director's Report

Goal 1. Advising the National Park Service at Keweenaw National Historical Park on park planning, preservation, interpretation, and operational matters

No significant activities under this goal for the last quarter.

Goal 2. Develop the Keweenaw Heritage Sites Program into a consortium of fully sustainable sites

See reported he will have a statistics report through 2013 for July meeting. Tara Laase-McKinney, Heritage Site Ranger, will continue this summer. She did a great job representing the park last summer.

Goal 3. Develop partnerships that provide visitors with a cohesive, accessible, and engaging national park experience along the entire length of the Keweenaw

The Commission has received enough donations and pledges to meet the fundraising goal for the acquisition of the Quincy Smelter. Thanks to our anonymous donor for the very generous support, the American Foundation for supporting our efforts with a grant, and the dozens of individuals and businesses that have helped us reach this goal.

See continues to work with Weston Solutions and the NPS on environmental paperwork for the transfer of a remediated Superfund site, as well as with the EPA to complete a reasonable steps letter to adequately care for the site. Once we have these items completed, we should be able to initiate the actual property transfer. No closing date yet but expecting it to take place this summer.

See also provided input to two other NPS documents. The first is a set of guidelines to help steer future development at the site. It considers what would happen if Isle Royale NP moved to the smelter and the move involved new construction. How do we do that in a way so it is sensitive to a National Historic Landmark? This document contains things like the types of colors that should be used, types of materials, and characteristics of buildings on the site, such

as the fact that the historic buildings are all oriented to the water. New construction should respect that.

The second document is a PowerPoint presentation that makes the case for the acquisition of the smelter by the NPS. The presentation included data on why the NPS should own the historic buildings, and reviews the possibility of moving Isle Royale's administrative offices and docking facilities to the smelter site. The presentation will be used to help educate NPS staff at Region and in the Washington office about the possibilities with the smelter.

See attended the planning session for the environmental remediation work for the Cliff Mine site this summer. The most recent meeting was to review the 75% engineering drawings and discuss any last-minute design changes. A few issues were raised at this meeting, but he is pleased with the constructive nature of the conversation. We don't all share the same values of what's important, but the group is working through the differences to achieve their respective goals. It's been a good process.

Goal 4. Promote a historic preservation ethic and emphasize heritage awareness

We received 21 grant applications for 2014 Historic Grant program, requesting \$184,000 worth of projects. The grant evaluation panel will review the applications over the next few days. We have \$105,000 to distribute. Successful applicants will be notified on May 1, and funds will be available June 1. Thanks to Tom Baker for grant feedback.

On March 25, See traveled to Saginaw to present at the Council for Michigan's Land Use Forum. See was asked to talk about the balance between historic and environmental values, and used the Quincy Smelter and Cliff Mine as examples. There were about 100 attendees. Most were representatives from foundations in the state who were familiar with natural resource conservation projects but had very little experience with historic preservation.

The presentation in Saginaw led to two other talks in Marquette – one to the Northern Michigan Public Service Academy and the other to the Michigan Environmental Council. These venues gave See a chance to showcase what we have been doing up here, balancing history and environmental need. All of these presentations were to foundations and organizations that we normally don't interact with, and the sessions helped get the word out about the park and the work that we are doing here.

See also gave a short talk at the Finn Forum Strike Symposium at the Finnish American Heritage Center. The Commission provided some financial support to the event, which provided another opportunity to talk about the park and the Heritage Sites program.

Goal 5. Develop the Commission into a sustainable operating organization

On March 21, the Park held a small thank you event for Senator Levin. He has been instrumental in the establishment of the park and a great friend over the years. Superintendents Pflaum and Green thanked him, as did Commissioners.

On February 15, NPS staff and members of the Commission met with Congressman Gary Peters at the Visitor Center. He is running for Senator Levin's soon-to-be vacant seat. He asked to be introduced to the park.

Superintendent Pflaum submitted two funding requests to the regional office on our behalf, one for operational needs and one for potential costs related to the acquisition of the Smelter. We will know by the end of the month if they have been funded.

We also received the last payment from the Federal Byways grant which funded our Historic Resource Survey. We had been carrying an outstanding reimbursement for \$21,000, but finally received the last check.

Thanks to Commissioner Hoagland and Tom Baker, See pulled together a draft of the 5-year report for the Commission. The report will be printed before next meeting.

See also worked with our bookkeeper for year-end tax filing for the Commission and Copper Country Preservation, Inc.

Discussion Following Executive Directors Report

Al J.: What was the nature of the environmental work they are doing at Cliff?

Johnson requested clarification on the nature of the environmental work at Cliff Mine. See explained that, similar to what the DEQ / EPA had done at Central, they plan to remove stamp sand so it's no longer in contact with the stream. Gina Nicholas is facilitating the work locally. They are trying to stop copper from entering the stream water and Lake Superior. We don't want them to destroy the historic resources at the site while performing this work. There were some historic resources uncovered at Central that were never recorded or preserved. We also don't want the end result to look like a golf course that doesn't really fit into the landscape. Possible ways to avoid that outcome are using poor rock for stream beds, installing hardened stream crossings instead of building bridges, and using rail fence instead of chain link fencing.

Langseth complimented the 5-Year Report and noted that it should be very useful.

Commission Committees and Projects

Announcements/ Executive

Nothing significant to report.

Budget/ Finance

Treasurer Dana was absent. Moved by Johnson, seconded by Langseth to approve the payment of bills in the amount of \$12,848.92 plus wages and taxes of \$17,150.61. **Motion Carried Unanimously. (5/0)**

Development

See has discussed several needs with private foundations. With donations in hand and pledges, the Commission has enough money to purchase the Smelter. We received a grant from the Americana Foundation, and our anonymous donor came through with \$100,000. A number of other donors provided some money upfront with pledges for more money next year.

Partnerships

Nothing significant to report.

Preservation- Stewardship

Nothing significant to report.

Superintendent's Report

Pflaum reported that the budget is better than we had prepared for but basically back to 2012 level. We are able to restore some of the grant money available from the park, add ranger-led programs, and increase hours and days at the Visitor Center.

Pflaum explained that the Park had recently participated in the Park Break program, which was funded by the Washington office and George Wright Society. Only two parks per year are chosen for 8 graduate students to travel from across the country to learn about the park and management, archeology, prehistoric and native use of copper. Their final report, which will be shared when available, will tell us how we can improve education and interpretation of our archeological resources. It was an intense week-long program and credit to all participating staff, especially historian Jo Holt.

The Visitor Center won the NPS National Accessibility Award, especially for hearing impaired capabilities. MWRO Accessibility Coordinator Dave Thompson accepted on our behalf.

We received funding for a week-long teacher workshop on labor and immigration history in late July. We have invited local and national historians to engage up to 20 educators at park headquarters. This project is headed by Chief of Interpretation Kathleen Harter.

The park will receive \$30,000 per year for three years for interpretive planning for Heritage Sites. Kathleen Harter will lead this project; she's had some discussion with the Commission as to how to accomplish this. She added that this project came from the Comprehensive Interpretive Plan (CIP) which identified interpretive themes, but did not include the Heritage Sites. This project will work with Heritage Sites beginning in September.

Tom Baker reported on a study on maritime heritage resources in Michigan supported by Senator Stabenow. The park has been involved 3 years in this multi-agency, interdisciplinary program. The study will propose that, because resources are too dispersed to create a heritage area, the NPS should create a program to provide financial and technical assistance based on our Keweenaw Heritage Sites program. Natalie Franz, Planner from the regional office in Omaha, Sandra Clark, Director of the Michigan Historic Center, and Eric Hemmingway, Director of Repatriation Archives and Records for Little Traverse Band of Odawa Indians, presented the results of the study at the Michigan Historic Preservation Network conference. If approved, the NPS would administer the program.

The Keweenaw NHP Business Plan is at the printers now and will be shared as soon as it's available. It's a guide to efficient use of our resources for the next several years.

Brian Hoduski reported that the Lake Superior Management Collection Center was approved in January by Acting Regional Director Patty Trap. It institutes a multi-park museum operation amongst Isle Royale, Pictured Rocks and Keweenaw. The first meeting of the governing board, 3 Superintendents and the regional curator, will be May 8 at the park. Pflaum noted that Pictured Rocks is providing \$3000 to get started this year.

Hoduski also reported on the Smackdown, the 12th Annual High School Local History event hosted by the park. Schools from Baraga, Ontonagon, Houghton, Calumet and Dollar Bay fielded a total of 10 teams. All counties will be represented. The event will be at the Finnish American Heritage Center since there was a scheduling conflict with the Calumet Theatre, where previous Smackdown events have taken place. Questions will have a focus on the 1913 Strike period. Jeremiah Mason has written about 70 questions. Thank you to Isle Royale & Keweenaw Parks Association (IRKPA) for donating strike-related books to the schools. Pflaum also thanked the Advisory Commission for its support, especially Ed Jenich for his fundraising efforts. Pflaum apologized to the Calumet Theatre for any miscommunication due to scheduling issues. Two judges are in attendance at this meeting, Beth Russell, MTU Archives, and Ginny Jamison, Keweenaw County Historical Society.

The park just received a \$35,000 settlement from Wisconsin Public Utilities due to air pollution. The park is working to get approval for photo-voltaic solar system at the Quincy Mine for

electricity in the mine. Requirements for project are that it must be green and sustainable and offset energy consumption and carbon footprint.

The park also received \$39,000 for the restoration and stabilization work of the Russell snowplow. We had asked for a larger amount, but this will slow down further decay and add some interpretation.

There will be new signs on the Calumet Visitor Center – one on each side.

Mike reported on the National Park Service's 100th anniversary in 2016. Parks need to do internal planning. In January 2015 and there will be a major advertising campaign. Along with our park partners, we will be planning what we can do locally to celebrate.

Discussion Following Superintendent's Report

Langseth commended Hoduski for the great documentation on the multi-park collection center. Hoduski said he had a lot of help, mostly from Nancy Russell, South Florida Parks, who manages an operation that is organized similarly.

Johnson asked Pflaum what it is like to be paid for one job and do the job of two - Pictured Rocks Superintendent and Acting Superintendent for Keweenaw. Pflaum responded that email, good communication, and staff make it possible. There is no word yet on a new superintendent for Keweenaw.

Other Reports From Commissioners

Hoagland Kim reminded the group about Commissioners terms that will expire soon. Sullivan's did expire and Baker said the re-nomination has been forwarded. Johnson's and Langseth's appointments are pending following their nomination by the State of Michigan and Calumet Township respectively.

Jenich thanked all donors and sponsors for Smackdown support.

Comments from Legislators or Legislative Staff

Amy Berglund wished she could be at the meeting in person and noted that Pflaum already covered the budget issues. The Interior Appropriation's sub-committee will have FY15 bill ready sometime this summer.

Amy congratulated the Commission and park on the purchase of the Smelter. We certainly appreciate everyone's efforts.

She also thanked the park for hosting Senator Levin on his recent visit. It was great to finish up his visit here with the park staff and community at the pasty lunch.

Comments from Keweenaw Heritage Site Representatives

Ginny Jamison enjoyed the Park Break students. Two projects funded by the Keweenaw County Historical Society for this summer are work at the Phoenix Church and Douglass Houghton memorial. The memorial has one stone from every mine in the Keweenaw. The Museum will open in June.

Beth Russell from the Tech Archives thanked the Commission for the financial support for Strike Symposium. Seventy people attended from the United Kingdom, Canada, Croatia, Estonia and across the U.S.

Glenda Bierman reported the Quincy Mine Hoist Association is working on interpretive panels and displays in the hoist house. They're also working with MTU students on a new electric transport into the mine. It will reduce diesel emissions and improve passenger tours since noise is reduced. Quincy Mine Hoist Association will publish a new book written by Chuck Pomazal regarding the Quincy Torch Lake Railroad. And the big project of restoring the hoist has gone through the first phase of the repair. The Miner's Memorial House is also in need of period items to furnish rooms.

Art Limback reported that the Calumet Theatre now has obvious security personnel in the theatre and behind stage. Radios also have been installed. Without this, certain performers would not come here due to gun violence experienced in other areas.

Jean Pemberton reported that the Copper Range museum will have its Open House on May 31. The annual member dinner will be at the Painesdale Methodist Church with Kim Hoagland as speaker. She asked if anyone is attending the Northland Consortium in Beechwood (Ironwood) area. The museum joined the Michigan Association of Libraries.

Comments from Public

No comments.

Motion to Adjourn

Meeting adjourned.

Next Meeting

July 15, 2014