

Murray History Advisory Board
July 31, 2012

Attendance: David Adams, Ian Wright, Peter Steele, Wendy DeMann, Reed Wahlquist, Mary Ann Kirk (staff).
Excused: Susan Wright

1. Minutes for May 29, 2012 were approved as written.
2. Mary Ann noted that the meeting in June was cancelled because we did not have a quorum. However some board members and staff met with the Design Review Committee. Those who attended felt it was a good meeting and provided an opportunity for us to review the history and importance of the historic buildings in the downtown area and better understand the role of each group in preserving these buildings. Mary Ann reviewed several preservation funding sources including CDBG funding. These programs are administered through agencies such as Neighborworks, Assist, Habitat for Humanity and Valley Services. They all have income criteria that apply. City of South Salt Lake gets a lot of money through CDBG because of the low income levels. There are portions of Murray's downtown that were eligible areas prior to the 2010 census but those figures will change as the county is updating their maps.
3. Staff Report
 - a. Museum staff is creating a website about our museum and history resources on a website called Legacy Stories. This site will direct patrons to our museum and library website resources. It will also allow us to add oral histories.
 - b. The historic registry is on line although we are still adding historic photos from the Salt Lake County archives. Mary Ann noted that as she is looking through the photos at the county, she is finding other photos of buildings that were demolished. These are being added to the website.
 - c. The oral history project is just beginning. We have identified a list of about 25 people. Some of them are part of the MHS graduating class of 1943 who meet monthly. Mary Ann would like to interview them individually and as a group. We will be using audio segments of these histories as "listening stations" in the museum to tell different themes in the museum first hand. Reed will find a contact number for the Yoshi family.
 - d. The CLG grant for the RLS survey and updated national registry multiple property listing is almost completed. We will then consider additional nominations for our registry including districts.
4. Upcoming calendar includes the state museum conference in October which will also include the National Conference for Museums. Once Mary Ann gets all the information, board members are invited to attend the national conference sessions.
5. Museum Day is typically held in September. Mary Ann asked if we want to participate with an activity in the museum. Last year we featured the new water exhibit. We will

discuss this next month once we know when it is. We don't have to do anything if we don't think there is anything to spotlight. We need to decide by the end of August so we can put an article in the Murray Journal. Wendy suggested having children performing groups who bring parents. Mary Ann said City Hall doesn't have space for that. We possibly could have storytelling at the museum. We will be asking those who we are interviewing to come for a public open house in the spring as part of our oral history grant.

Ian suggested doing a ghost story activity related to the various buildings in the downtown area although this wouldn't work in September. We could possibly create stories related to the different buildings in historic downtown such as the Cahoon Mansion, Townsend homes, Old Iris, Murray Theater, etc. It could end up at Desert Star, Townsend home which is now Neighborworks or the museum in City Hall. Wendy said the stories didn't have to be about the buildings themselves. Murray has other stories such as the Charles Thiede story, the first murder in the newly established state of Utah. Maybe the exchange club would be interested in changing the location of their Haunted Woods activity. Mary Ann noted that one year we had a card that had the various buildings on it and if they visited everything and got the card stamped, they could retrieve some food from the Elks Lodge. Mary Ann will talk to the business owners such as Michael Todd and see what he thinks. She didn't think we could pull this off this year but we could explore it for next year. It could be a fun activity.

6. There were no demolition requests.
7. A woman called from the residential downtown district and wanted to know if we were still willing to pursue a conservation district ordinance. Peter felt we already talked about the need to have it come from the residents themselves. We could support their request.
8. David asked what happened with the old Murray Theater after changes were made without going through the design review. Mary Ann said they were required to return the architectural features that were removed. The building between the two theaters, although not a historic building, was changed and now features a false brick front using brick from the Hoffman Building that burned down.
9. Mary Ann asked Reed about how his area feels about being part of Murray. He thought they were pleased with the many things Murray does as a community. Mary Ann would like to incorporate the history of that area better.
10. Next meeting is August 28.