



Historical Plaques Team Meeting

Wednesday, April 10, 2013, 2:00 PM-3:30 PM

City of Fairbanks, 800 Cushman Street

FMATS Conference Room – 2nd Floor, Fairbanks, Alaska

Meeting Minutes

1. Call to Order

Jessica Smith called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

2. Introduction of Members and Attendees

The following were present:

Name	Representing
Donna Gardino	FMATS Coordinator
Jessica Smith	FMATS Transportation Planner
Deborah Todd	FMATS Admin Assistant
Ron Inouye	Tanana Yukon Historical Society
George Lounsbury	Pioneers of Alaska/Pioneer Museum
Pat Sackinger	Historic Preservation Commission
Julie Jones	Festival Fairbanks
Kathy Marx	Fairbanks North Star Borough
Cindy Schumaker	Morris Thompson Center
Anna Plager	CRFC

3. Public Comments

None.

4. Approval of Meeting Minutes

- February 27, 2013
Motion: To approve February 27, 2013 meeting minutes. (Jones/Gardino)
Vote on Motion: None opposed. Approved.
- March 11, 2013
Motion: To approve March 11, 2013 meeting minutes. (Jones/Gardino)
Vote on Motion: None opposed. Approved.

5. Old Business

a. Overall Theme Recap

Ms. Smith went over the themes chosen by the team at the previous meeting noting that she had left out the “Environment” theme and needed clarification of the 5 versus the 6 themes chosen. Mr. Inouye stated that the team had chosen six themes at the various meeting.

- **Theme: Why were the Founding Fathers in Fairbanks?**
 1. Founding Fathers
 2. Transportation Hub

3. **Location Specific**
4. **Public Gatherings**
5. **Trade**
6. **Environment**

b. Layout of Signage

Ms. Smith reviewed previously discussed sign layout and size of plaques. Ms. Smith informed the team about the Policy Committee approval for the funding of up to ten signs stating that the Policy Committee was very much in favor of the plaques. Ms. Smith then discussed the engineering drawings included in the meeting packet containing revisions and explained the changes that were made to the area to enable accessibility and ADA compliance. Ms. Gardino suggested asking if the concrete could be colored like the complete streets design or walking bridge.

Motion: To get exposed concrete aggregate color scheme to match the Complete Streets and Wayfinding Signs Projects concrete. (Jones/Gardino)

Discussion: Ms. Schumaker inquired how the footbridge colors compared to the complete streets project colors. Ms. Smith stated that there were blue, red, and yellow on the footbridge and the complete streets were a “dredge bucket brown” color scheme. Ms. Smith stated that the Wayfinding sign color schemes were similar to the blue and gold colors of the Alaska flag. Ms. Smith stated that she would find out if there was a color option for the exposed concrete aggregate. Mr. Inouye inquired about the color of the base. Ms. Gardino stated that the color would be dependent upon the cost and an in stock color would be more affordable. Ms. Smith stated that one of the public comments for this project was to make sure that the colors were comparable to the “Complete Streets Project”.

Vote on Motion: None opposed. Approved.

- **Wayfinding Design Update**

Project design updates for the area were discussed as well as placement and mounting options for the plaques. The location and direction placements for the plaques were also discussed and it was decided that placement discussions should wait until plaque content was agreed upon.

- **Design Alaska Assistance (In Negotiations)**

Ms. Smith informed the team that as a consultant with the Illinois Street project, Design Alaska will assist in the layout and color design of each plaque. Two hours per plaque has been budgeted for this work.

c. Photograph Selection (Action Item)

Ms. Smith presented the categorized photographs selected by the team members, as well as new photos added by team members and located by Ms. Smith as suggested during previous meetings, including Bobby Sheldon’s cars. Ms. Smith stated that as she understood from the previous meeting, the environmental photograph content was of people specifically native to the Fairbanks area. Mr. Inouye discussed that after the previous meeting he had

thought about having the poem by Belle Herbert on the plaque in both English and the language of origin. Mr. Inouye stated that the elders were looking at that idea to give their opinions on what would be the best idea for the poem.

Ms. Gardino stated that getting permissions and having the poem translated into various languages and putting a QR code linked to it would be an idea.

Ms. Smith added that having an audio file of the poem read by someone who spoke the language would be another idea. Mr. Inouye stated that something very simple would be the best idea for the poem and photo idea.

Photo Review and Selection:

- (1) 1944 Photo of Native people dancing at the USO in Fairbanks were presented as being particular to the space. Ms. Jones clarified that the USO was on the edge of the Golden Heart Plaza rather than in the greenspace area. Ms. Sackett stated that 1st and Turner Street was where the original buildings were located downtown. Mr. Lounsbury stated that the north side of 1st Avenue did not have many commercial buildings. Ms. Jones stated that she liked the fact that the photo depicted multiethnicity. Ms. Schumaker like the fact that the photo showed a commonality among the different people. Ms. Jones stated that she would like to have some other opinions as to whether the people in the photo were Eskimo or Athabascan.
- (2) Photo with native men playing drums at the USO circa WWII. Mr. Lounsbury stated that the photos might be offensive to some people as it depicted an Eskimo dance and there were no women in it. There was discussion regarding the time period and the fact that it was later and an earlier time frame scheme had previously been agreed upon by the team.
- (3) Tanana Chiefs Council photo. Ms. Gardino inquired if the photo was already in the Morris Thompson Center. Ms. Smith stated that if you wanted the poem translated in Athabascan and English it would be nice to have a watermarked photo behind it possibly of Belle Herbert if acceptable to the elders such as the photo on the book.
- (4) Map depicting the native peoples of Alaska.
- (5) Native woman with basket labeled "Basket Vendor"
- (6) Winter Carnival photo was shown. Ms. Gardino stated that the photo should be included in the "Gathering" theme photos. Mr. Lounsbury stated that there were better photos available.
- (7) Photo of broomball game on the Chena River. Was decided that this photo should be included in "Public Gatherings".
- (8) Photo of public gathering with dogsled on river waiting for start.
- (9) Photo of Ice Throne.

Ms. Sackinger suggested that there be one, 18" x 24" plaque containing the three founding fathers including something to explain their significance to Fairbanks such as captions like dates of birth, death, and residence. Ms. Smith

stated that if someone could get the information for the caption content, she would send the photos, captions, sign size, and color scheme information to Design Alaska. Ms. Smith requested that Mr. Lounsbury speak with relatives of Bobby Sherman to get caption information for the photos.

Transportation Photo Review and Discussion

Ms. Smith presented the nine photos that were previously selected by the team and how many should be chosen for a 12 x 18 plaque was discussed. Ms. Gardino stated that there was money budgeted for ten signs now, so two signs could be dedicated to the Transportation theme. Ms. Sackinger stated that cars, dog teams, riverboats, airplanes, and railroads should be the modes of transportation depicted on the two plaques.

Photo #1- Photo depicting airplane on water. Ms. Marx stated that she had a photo of two float planes on the river. Ms. Jones stated that she would prefer that the photos were in the downtown area.

Photo #2-Photo of north end of railroad line.

Photo #3-Photo of Lavelle Young Riverboat

Photo #4-Photo of Lavelle Young riverboat at landing

Photo #5-Photo of cable ferry needs caption-pair cable crossing photo with Turner Street Bridge photo. Include caption "Every winter the ice took out bridge at Turner Street and people had to cross the river by cable ferry."

Photo #6-Remove.

Photo #7-Photo of children with wagon and dog. Mr. Lounsbury stated that if you could enhance photos to see faces the picture would be better. Ms. Smith stated that she had been told that you when enhancing photos, you cannot fix something that is not there, it is very expensive. It was agreed that they needed to know what the story behind the photo was before it could be used.

Photo #8-Photo of train. Suggestion of pairing train photo with flood photo to get extended view, include end of line photo and put all three railroad photos on one sign. Ms. Plager stated that the rule of thumb for captions on signs was 3 seconds, 10 seconds, 30 seconds which meant title, subtitle, and information.

Ms. Marx was asked to get caption information for three railroad photographs from Martin Gutowski. Ms. Sackinger suggested that Mr. Deeley's book also contained information about the railroad history. Ms. Smith stated that she would send Ms. Marx the three photos.

Photo #9-Photo of dogsled on Chena River. Mr. Lounsbury stated that he could get the photo in TIF format.

Photo #10-Photos of Bobby Sheldon cars. Mr. Lounsbury will find out more about the photos and the people in the photos.

Public Gatherings Photo review and discussion.

Photo #3-Photo of 4th of July celebration in 1906.

Photo #4-Photo of 4th of July celebration in 1906. It was discussed that this was the better and clearer photo with a perspective of the river, the bridge, and buildings.

Photo #PN-08-82-74

Photo of Hockey game on Chena River.

Ms. Gardino thought that there should be two public gathering plaques.

6. New Business

a. Funding Update

- **FMATS Policy Committee Scope Expansion**

Ms. Smith informed the team about the Policy Committee decision to provide additional funding for up to ten signs.

b. Design Update

- **Layout of Signage in Greenspace**

Team members discussed layout, size, and mounting options for the plaques as well as placement in the green space.

Motion: To make all the signs larger and the same size. (Jones/Inouye)

Discussion: Ms. Sackinger stated that she would like to have the sign for Founding Fathers be larger in size and discuss whether to have all photos in either sepia tone or black and white. Ms. Jones stated that the signs should be larger in size. Ms. Plager stated that interpretive display signs used by State Parks at Rika's Roadhouse were the large size such as 30x34. Ms. Gardino stated that the 20x24 size would not fit in the space. Mr. Lounsbury stated that the plaques should be as big as they were allowed to have in that space.

Vote on Motion: None opposed. Approved.

Next Steps: Staff & Team Assignments

-Mr. Inouye will speak with the elders regarding the Belle Herbert poem translation, permissions, and presentation.

-Mr. Lounsbury will talk with Sheldon family members and others who could provide information regarding car photos and whether they were the first vehicles in Alaska.

-Ms. Smith will find out what photo quality needs to be and the origin of the photos and send that information out to the team.

7. Public Comment Period

None.

8. Other Issues

None.

9. Adjourn

Motion to Adjourn: (Jones/Gardino)

The meeting adjourned at 3:50 p.m. The next Historic Plaque meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 2, 2013 at 1:30 p.m.

April 10, 2013
Historical Plaques Team Meeting

Approved: Jessica Smith

Date: 5-8-2013

Jessica Smith
FMATS Historical Plaque Team