

CHD Notes from 3/12/2008 CHD Advisory Panel meeting
Café Cimino in Historic Downtown Sutton
2:00 to 4:30

Attendees:

Karen Ebert Allen, Christy Bailey, Martha Ballman, Phyllis Baxter, Jean Boger, Karen Carper, Pamela Erb, Sandy Fisher, Josh Fangmeier, Justin Gaul, Cheryl Hartley, Melissa May, Tom McColley, Susan Pierce, Jeff Samples, Mike Sizemore and Bryan Ward

Introduction: Historic Downtown Sutton

An overview of Historic Downtown Sutton was provided by Jean Boger. The town has roots to pre-colonial times, was an important early crossroads on the Weston to Gauley turnpike and was a strategic site during the Civil War. The railroad and timber industry were important to the development of Sutton. Several historic properties are still intact and open to reflect this proud past. Jean suggests visiting the Needle Basket to see an example of intact architecture and cultural heritage. Plan a visit to historic downtown Sutton soon.

2008 Conference: Roots, Realities and the Road Ahead

Preservation Alliance of West Virginia and the Coal Heritage Highway Authority are working together to present a conference Nov 6-8 in Oak Hill, WV with the theme Roots, Realities and the Road ahead. Speaker to present a compelling message in regard to cultural heritage development are needed. A Request For Presenters (RFP) for distributed. If you know of anyone who would be a dynamic speaker or a beneficial presenter, please let them know the RFP is online at www.pawv.org/???

Focus Group Discussion

Shaping Policy and Visioning

What's New!

Karen Carper shared some of her experiences advocating recently for inclusion of a line-item in the budget for funding an office to oversee cultural heritage tourism development at the state level. The budget was submitted with this inclusion. There was a resolution HRC38 to do a study to evaluate historic tourism and a Senate bill SB 559 to increase funding for historic preservation grants.

Conference Ideas

Sessions to assist communities with preservation advocacy were suggested.

- What to do when a historic property in your community is threatened.
- Community planning to avoid loss of historic properties.
- A panel discussion with communities who have been pro-active with historic preservation and some who have been re-active to events that threaten the communities historic past.

WV Products/ Business Opportunities

What's New!

Since we last met:

- The Vision Shared Access to Market committee “Made Right Here” campaign to promote buying locally has awarded the contract for developing the marketing strategy to the Manahan Group based in Charleston.
- The Farmers Markets participated in the Dept of Agriculture’s conference and are forming a statewide group.
- Collaborative for 21st Century Appalachia held another successful Cast Iron Cook-off at the end of January.
- State Park Buyers Marketplace event at Pipestem in Feb was very well represented by WV vendor as part of the Made In Grown In program of PAWV. Vendors and buyers were surveyed to better understand the needs of both. Vendors wish to have another Trade Show in the northern part of the state. There was a long discussion of possible scenarios to have another trade show for WV artists/crafters/producers. Past events of this nature have not been sustainable. The group proposed that the Buyers Marketplace event for state parks and gift shops rotate between parks representing the three areas thought most desirable. Pipestem, Stonewall and Cacapon were suggested.
- WV Music Hall of Fame held its first awards concert in Nov. It is a wonderful presentation of cultural heritage. The museum needs a permanent home.

Conference Ideas

WV Music Hall of Fame- have one of the three traveling exhibits on display in the lobby.

Becky Anderson, former director of Handmade in America as a speaker. She has “penciled Nov 6—8 in”. Thanks Cheryl for making this contact.

WV Artisans website Focus group to discuss a statewide site modeled on but an improvement to “KY Crafted”. Jeff Samples and Connie McColley were suggested to shape the session(s).

Possible Places to present Cultural Heritage Development message

- CreateWV conference
- Governor’s conference on Tourism
- WV Association of Museums conference- last week in March
- Arts Assembly- May 18-18 in Morgantown
- CVB conference Marianne Moran is the person to contact
- WV Dept of Agriculture conference

Thematic Trails

What's New!

Preserve America has granted \$100,000 to WV to develop thematic trails. PAWV and SHPO have already started meeting with historic theater stakeholders to explore this possibility with them. Another idea to develop was new Deal/CCC sites. Other ideas for trails to develop and market WV cultural heritage that are being developed are: Railroads-an excursion train group is currently marketing several of the trains together. Cindy Butler is a good resource person in this area. 2nd level includes depots. We need to find out more.

ARC project for WV Coal & Rail in distressed counties-help with connections African American Heritage-J.R. Clifford driving tour of historic sites associated with his life/work is being drafted by the Friends of Blackwater. The WV Blues Society is working on a project featuring the history of many blues musicians who are WV natives. The Midland Scenic Trail features many sites. Anthony Kinzer is a good resource person in this area.

Artisans of Southern WV -Mullens

Music Heritage Trail might be modeled after the Theater trail developing now.

Food Heritage Trail featuring restaurants could be developed using an model in Alabama.

Historic Bridges were mentioned.

Conference Ideas

Community Based Tourism with organization and stakeholder involvement, sustainability, travel green. Ansted-Mt Institute – Wang, Doug Arbogast (Christy-Justin)

Political Process of CDH with politicians, civic leaders, community planners, locals-kudos

Advocacy Tips

Roundtable of Resources form State Agencies with handout of materials

Neat Ideas people of doing –out-of-the-box ideas

Becky Anderson Small town workshop

Heritage Development Institute maybe pre-conference event

Interpretation- extended workshop

Hospitality- extended workshop

* It was suggested that the Byways map be put on ? website

Historic Downtowns and Small Business

This focus group did not meet at this time.

Refreshments were provided by Café Cimino Country Inn

Our thanks to proprietors, Tim and Melody Urbanic, for featuring WV products locally grown and prepared and for preserving and presenting our cultural heritage through the facility, food and fine arts they provide to the traveling public.