

November 28, 2023

7:00-8:45 PM

Meeting of COMO Preservation

www.comopreservation.org

Columbia Public Library, Friends Room

I. Call to order by Dianna O'Brien

The sign-in sheet was passed around and the following were present: Lyria Bartlett, Chris Creasey, Jay Creasey, Melissa Bernhardt, Elena Vega, Jerry B., Mary Kaye Doyle, Kyle Sullivan, Mary Daly, Dennis Fitzgerald, Nina Sappington, Sharon Ford Schattgen, Cindy McCord, Scott March, Janice DeRosier, Edward Doyle, Sarah Justice, Michael King, Linda King, Zac March, Debb Wheeler, Michelle Lancaster, Brian Hayden, Kim Klapproth, Kim Dillon John Cartwright, and Dianna O'Brien.

Event Reminders:

- In 2024, meeting dates will start at 6:00 in the Columbia Public Library, Friends Room.

-Our next meeting will be December 19 at 7:00 in the Broadway Diner. If you are interested in bringing holiday treats, please contact Melissa at mel205.bernhardt@gmail.com.

-January 23, 2024 meeting will be the history of the Orr Street area.

-Volunteers are needed for all teams. Tasks range from taking photos, writing content for a blog to monitoring Columbia's colleges to help salvage historic items.

Advocacy Team: next meeting: 9-10 AM on Dec. 12 at EatWell.

Restoration Team: next meeting 5:15-6:30 PM on Dec. 14 at Elena's house-2815 N. Oakland Gravel Road.

Education Team: next meeting 3-5 PM on Dec. 12 in The Grind on Forum.

Announcements:

-Become a Founding Member by joining before 12/31/23.

-Columbia Tourism Ambassador program. Chris Creasy at chriscreasy@hotmail.com or Dee Wasman at drwasman@gmail.com. Jan. 23 class begins.

-Most Notable Properties brochures and nomination forms. (step toward National Register)

II. Speaker: Dr. Bruce Alspaugh. His mother Carol Ann Alspaugh donated 201 acres on Mexico Gravel Road and restricted its use to greenspace and nature area to preserve wildlife and the natural landscape, according to KOMU Jan. 20, 2023

The newest park in Columbia will be named after his father, John W. Alspaugh. The Alspaugh property is located in NE Columbia off Mexico Gravel Road and at 201 acres is the largest donation of land to Columbia Parks & Rec.

John William Alspaugh & Carol Alspaugh started out in Louisburg, MO (pop. 134). Attended Missouri State University, graduated in 1958 – Math & Science. Became a teacher in Urbana, MO. He was in the Army Signal Corp stationed in Stuttgart, Germany. While in Germany he became interested in farming practices he observed there. He received an honorable discharge from the Army in 1966. John and Carol Ann married in 1962. He taught research methods at Iowa State.

The Alspaugh's moved to Boone County. He began buying land in 1979, and continued to purchase adjoining land until 2002. He became a full professor at MU and retired in 2000, but continued some teaching till 2010. Mrs. Carol Alspaugh was a math teacher at Stephens College. Dr. Alspaugh retired to farming. He believed in raising high-value crops on small tracts of land (tomatoes, corn, melons, cantaloupe). His land along east Hinkson Creek and Mexico Gravel Road: N. bottom field and S. bottom field were excellent for growing vegetables. Some of the best soil for growing crops in Boone County. There are 100 acres of forested hills, woods good for hiking and nature trails.

Two cemeteries are on the property. Hinkson Creek Cemetery overlooks the valley. The city would erect a marker at Hinkson Creek Cemetery. Antioch Christian Church Cemetery is also located on the designated park land. The cemeteries would be mowed and maintained by the city.

Some plans for the park would include a barn with garden equipment, restrooms and greenhouses. It could be a place for hayrides and barn dances. In the N. bottom would be a good place for a Christmas tree farm. MU would like to raise and sell trees. Also, there is space for apple orchards and a nursery for other trees.

John W. Alspaugh Park will be for the people to enjoy, to preserve the land in perpetuity and maintain the natural environment. Hiking trails will be developed to encourage everyone to enjoy a natural park. The land was donated to the City Parks & Rec. by Mrs. Carol Ann Alspaugh in memory of her husband who died in 2022.

Dr. Bruce Alspaugh listed many owners of the land over the years beginning with John G. Keene, a doctor who moved to the Boone County area around 1793. Land Patents were issued to private individuals beginning in 1815-1818.