

Great Falls/Cascade County Historic Preservation Advisory Commission

Minutes from the November 12, 2020, meeting held in the Planning & Community Development Conference Room via Zoom

Members Present: Ellen Sievert, Carol Bronson, Ken Sievert, Suzanne Waring, Rich Ecke, Ken Robison, Steve Taylor

Members Absent: Peter Jennings, Chris Christiaens

Staff Present: Tom Micuda, Brad Eatherly

Ex-Officio Members Present: Joan Redeen

Visitors: None

The meeting was called to order by **Chairman Rich Ecke** at 12:01 pm.

1. Approval of Meeting Minutes (October 14, 2020) - The October 14 minutes needed the following corrections, as noted by Ken R. in an email to Tom: 1) The church referred to in Mike and Barb Winters' stained glass work should be Union Bethel, not Indian Bethel, and 2) the reference to Jane Weber attending a meeting in Fort Benton about the National Heritage Area was not accurate. The minutes need to be corrected to reference that other members of the Heritage Area board wrote letters and attended a meeting of the Fort Benton City Council. Tom noted that these corrections will be made.

Ken R. made a motion to approve the minutes as modified; seconded by Ellen Sievert. Minutes approved.

2. Planning Staff Report on Work Activities - Tom reported that 29 applications have been received so far for the vacant HPO position. Rich, Jane Weber, and staff will soon be setting up first interviews with qualified candidates. He also noted that he submitted the required 6-month activity report to the SHPO concerning work tasks that have been accomplished in the CLG program. Additionally, staff was contacted by Malmstrom Air Force Base regarding entry gates that have to be changed in order for the Base to conform to new anti-terrorism requirements. This requires an Environmental Assessment process. One of the alternatives being evaluated affects the existing museum and the plane displays within Heritage Park on Air Base property. This might cause relocation of these items to the 10th Avenue gate area. In response to a question about impacts to the museum from Ken S, HPAC requested that staff send this information be sent to all members.

Additionally, staff reviewed another telecommunications proposal to upgrade an existing communication array on the rooftop of Eagles Manor near the intersection of 9th Street South and 17th Avenue South. No impacts have been identified. Finally, staff received clarification from HPAC that there would be no December meeting or Christmas Party next month.

3. Approval of Letter Endorsing the Proposed Big Sky National Heritage Area - Rich reviewed the draft letter that was provided for the members. Tom noted that he received a question from Ken R about whether HPAC members who also serve on the Heritage Area board should disclose that membership before any vote on this matter. Tom indicated that City Legal staff recommends that HPAC members disclose this board service. Ellen, Carol, Ken R, and Rich all disclosed their board service. Steve moved to approve the letter as drafted. Ken R. seconded. The motion to approve the support letter passed unanimously.

After approving the letter, Commissioners discussed who should receive the support letter. Ellen thought it should go to local newspapers. Rich volunteered to work with staff on a future news release. Ken R, Steve, and other members also suggested that the letter could go to members and members-elect of government. Rich said he would ensure that the letter was received by the NHA board. Rich also thought it should go to the Montana Historical Society and the SHPO.

4. Update on Historic Preservation Awards Videography Effort - Brad updated the Commissioners on where things stand. Multiple proposals were submitted, and staff determined that Erin Merchant submitted the best proposal in terms of cost and quality of service. Brad and Tom will be meeting with Erin soon to develop the awards video.

5. Announcements from HPAC members – Ken S. informed HPAC that he was surprised to read in the Great Falls Builder’s Exchange Bulletin that a bid was taken for re-roofing and window replacement work on the County’s Rodeo Barn. HPAC members requested that Jane Weber provide a future update. Rich noted that the historic 10th Street Bridge is in the late stages of being converted into a usable pedestrian bridge. Joan Redeen noted that the proposed Wayfinding Plan has been completed and could be presented to the City Commission in December or January. The Downtown Development Partnership (DDP) is applying for a tourism grant for future sign installation.

6. Public Comment - None

7. Adjourn Meeting - Meeting was adjourned at 12:45pm.