

**Great Falls/Cascade County
Historic Preservation Advisory Commission**

**MINUTES from the
January 11, 2012 meeting**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Bob Milford, Jerry Clark, Carol Bronson, Carol Bradley, Ken Robison, Ken Sievert, Jerry McKinney and ex-officio members Joan Redeen and Judy Ellinghausen

MEMBERS ABSENT: Ryan Forde, Kelly Parks

GUESTS PRESENT: Carole Ann Clark and Cascade County Commissioner Jane Weber

STAFF PRESENT: Ellen Sievert

HPAC Chairperson Bob Milford called the meeting to order at 12 noon. Minutes from the November 2011 meeting were approved unanimously.

VINEGAR JONES CABIN: Ellen reported that a plan to install lighting at Gibson Park includes securing a light at the cabin.

2011 CHRISTMAS ORNAMENT: Less than thirty of the official City of GF ornaments featuring the Ursuline Centre remain, but Ellen said she sold 200 ornaments to the Ursuline Centre at a discount; they've been popular with groups that meet there. The HPAC has \$2,528 in the discretionary account from the sale of the ornaments.

OLD COLUMBUS HOSPITAL: Bob and Ken Dreyer are moving ahead with plans to have a nomination drafted for the old Columbus Hospital, which they own, for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. HPAC gave them \$500 last fall to start the process. Sandra Guynn, who operates a genealogy business inside the Columbus, has done some research on the building for them.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM: Three feasibility studies have been completed for the fire-damaged Rocky Mountain Building, the Baum-Trinastitch, and the Arvon Building. These were made possible by the *Preserve America* grant the city received through the State Historic Preservation Office.

RAINBOW DAM BUILDING: The HPAC is holding a community meeting Jan. 18 to discuss the fate of the soon-to-be-retired Rainbow Dam powerhouse. Commissioners discussed the importance of saving the building as opposed to tearing it down. Ellen said she would encourage various stakeholders to not only attend the meeting, but to volunteer to serve on a working task force to come up with a suitable use for the building.

NORTHSIDE WALKING SURVEY: Work is nearly finished on the northside walking brochure and Ellen said she would be taking it to the printer soon.

GREAT FALLS HIGH SCHOOL: The HPAC again discussed contacting Cheryl Crawley re: Great Falls High school, which is undergoing a new master plan. At the commission's suggestion, Ellen said she would also send a letter to Crawley underscoring the importance of maintaining the school's historical integrity and possibly identifying other schools in the district that might be eligible for NR listing.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS: Commission Chairperson Bob Milford, Vice Chair Ryan Forde and Secretary Carol Bradley were reelected to their posts.

PRESERVATION PLAYERS: The highly popular Preservation Players plan to perform at Preservation Cascade's annual meeting on Jan. 23. New additions to the cast are George Bird, the city's first public works director, played by Bob Milford; and architect George Shanley, played by Ken Robison.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES FOR 2012: A subcommittee consisting of Bob Milford, Jerry Clark and Carol Bronson will review the HPAC 2011-2012 goals and objectives and craft recommendations for this year to present at the February meeting.

HPAC's next regular meeting is at noon February 8 in the Rainbow Room of the Civic Center.

Respectfully submitted by
Carol Bradley
HPAC secretary