

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

**MINUTES from the  
February 8, 2012 meeting**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Bob Milford, Jerry Clark, Carol Bronson, Carol Bradley, Ken Robison, Ken Sievert, Ryan Forde, Kelly Parks, and ex-officio member Joan Redeen

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** ~~Ryan Forde, Kelly Parks~~, Jerry McKinney, ex-officio member Judy Ellinghausen

**GUESTS PRESENT:** City planner Brant Birkeland, architect Phil Faccenda, Cascade County Commissioner Jane Weber and Carole Ann Clark

**STAFF PRESENT:** Ellen Sievert

HPAC Chairperson Bob Milford called the meeting to order at 12 noon. Ken Robison moved to approve the minutes from the January 2012 meeting, Kelly Parks seconded the motion and commissioners approved the minutes unanimously.

**MONEY MATTERS:** Commissioners voted unanimously to submit an application for a Certified Local Government grant from SHPO in the amount of \$5,500. Ellen reported that security windows have been installed in the Vinegar Jones Cabin in Gibson Park at a cost of \$800-plus. The cabin fund contains more than \$5,000, so the bill can be paid easily.

**TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM:** A balance of \$5986.23 remains in the \$21500.00 Preserve America grant that was awarded to establish the program. The SHPO required that consultants knowledgeable enough to carry out technical assistance be hired to do so, and High Plains Architects, Billings, assembled a team to complete the initial feasibility studies. High Plains Architects has donated \$23,517.75 worth of donated time and materials for work on the project.

**GREAT FALLS HIGH SCHOOL:** Architect Phil Faccenda said he has created a group, Great Falls High Heritage Foundation, to submit an application to put the high school on the National Register of Historic Places. He expected to submit the paperwork in the next two weeks. Cascade County Commissioner Jane Weber questioned whether he had sought approval from the School District's Board of Trustees. Faccenda said he had not done so on grounds that the school is a public building and belongs to everyone. Ellen said a designation by the National Register would not come with strings attached.

**DOWNTOWN MASTER PLAN:** Of the 82 strategies contained in the newly approved Downtown Master Plan, city planner Brant Birkeland discussed five that list HPAC as potential partners: 1) creating themed pathways, which could include historical trails; 2) marketing downtown's historic properties through tax incentives; 3) educating property owners and developers of programs to restore historical properties; 4) supplementing way-finding programs with tours, digital maps and the like; and 5) continuing the technical assistance program. Ellen noted that the city's Land Development Code states that HPAC "shall" come up with design guidelines, and Ken Sievert said the city's Design Review Board has taken a more focused approach when it comes to historical properties.

**HPAC's GOALS AND OBJECTIVES FOR 2012:** A subcommittee consisting of Carol Bronson, Jerry Clark and Ellen presented a three-page list of goals and objectives for the year. Among them: to investigate funding possibilities for potential National Register sites along the Missouri River; to explore the creation of a Facebook page; and develop design guidelines in keeping with the city's Development Code and Downtown Master Plan. Commissioner Carol Bradley moved to table a vote on the list for a month so that a prioritization of Downtown Master Plan items could be included in the list. The motion failed for lack of a second. Commissioners then voted to adopt the goals and objectives, with Carol Bradley casting the lone nay vote.

**RESIGNATION OF JUDY ELLINGHAUSEN:** History museum historian Judy Ellinghausen is stepping down from her ex-officio position because she has taken a new job at the library, Ellen said. Commissioners discussed the possibility of having a new representative from the History Museum take Judy's place.

HPAC's next regular meeting is at noon March 14 in the Rainbow Room of the Civic Center.

Respectfully submitted by  
Carol Bradley  
HPAC secretary