

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

**MINUTES from the
June 8, 2011 meeting**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Bob Milford, Jerry Clark, Carol Bronson, Carol Bradley, Ken Robison, Ken Sievert, Jerry McKinney

MEMBERS ABSENT: Joan Redeen, Ryan Forde, Kelly Parks, Judy Ellinghausen

GUESTS PRESENT: 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 May 2011 minutes, Carol Bradley seconded and the minutes were approved unanimously.

REPORT OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER: Ellen submitted a long list of activities over the past month. Among other things, she followed up on the Lawniczak renderings of downtown storefronts for the Montana Main Street program, had the drawings mounted and prepared for exhibition, and submitted the first required report to Main Street officials. She provided city Parks and Recreation director Marty Basta with a history of Gibson Park for a July 1 smart-phone tour of the park. She took part in a walking audit of downtown with walkability expert Dan Burden; met with Tabitha Stephenson, facility supervisor for the downtown Post Office regarding construction plans and to discuss potential uses for the courtroom space in the federal building; and met with Cari Yturri to discuss plans for Bennett Motor's expansion.

PRESERVATION AWARD RECEPTION: Commissioners discussed the success of the awards ceremony and agreed to wear nametags at future such occasions so they could be readily identified. Commissioners also agreed to set aside \$200 for award plaques next year.

ARCHITECTURAL SURVEY: Ellen noted that several Great Falls buildings are included in a new *Montana Post-World War II Architectural Survey and Inventory* conducted by Dr. Diana Painter of Spokane. Fifty buildings are included statewide. The local buildings are Bennett Motors, Country Club Towers, the bus depot downtown and the University of Great Falls campus. UGF is considering hosting a conference to commemorate the recognition.

NORTHSIDE HISTORIC WALKING TOUR BROCHURE: Ellen has applied for a grant from the Convention and Visitors Bureau for matching money to help pay for new brochures of Great Falls' historic lower northside neighborhood. Commissioner Carol Bradley will write the brochure and local photographer Mick McMillan will take pictures of the houses.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM: June 14 is the deadline for firms to submit proposals in connection with the technical assistance program downtown, which will help local building owners determine the most feasible use for their buildings. A committee consisting of Pete Brown of SHPO; Ken Sievert; Ed Buttrey; Jenn Reichelt and Jeremiah Johnson of GFDA will review the proposals. Ellen said firms as far away as Texas, Colorado and California have expressed interest.

VINEGAR JONES CABIN: Ken Robison noted that rain had forced the cancellation of a clean-up of the Vinegar Jones Cabin. Ellen said she's nudging carpenter Pat Cooper to install windows. He had encountered problems getting parts for protective covers. The windows were damaged by vandals.

URSULINE CENTRE: Ellen reported that the Ursuline Centre just received a \$150,000 Murdock grant to replace the mortar in the 99-year-old building, which has a brick veneer. She said centre officials are doing all they can to make sure the wealth of documents stored at the Ursuline remain there when

ownership of the building changes hands in 2012. HPAC's Christmas ornament for this year will feature the Ursuline Centre.

HPAC's next regular meeting is at noon July 13 in the Rainbow Room of the Civic Center.

Respectfully submitted by
Carol Bradley
HPAC secretary