

Great Falls – Cascade County Historic Preservation Advisory Commission
Minutes from the February 14, 2024 meeting, held in the Gibson Room at the Civic Center

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

Members Absent: none

Staff Present: Samantha Long

Ex-Officio Members Present: Rae Grulkowski, Joe McKenney

The meeting was called to order by Chris Christiaens at 12:03 PM

1. Approval of Meeting Minutes – January 10, 2023

- Carol Bronson moved to approve the minutes as written. Ken Robison seconded, and the motion carried.

2. HPO Report

- Sam attended the State Historic Preservation Review Board meeting on Jan 25 to support the Baatz Building nomination. The nomination was recommended for acceptance and forwarded to the Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places.
- Sam, Rich, Ken R., and Chris will attend Preservation Cascade's meeting on 2/19 to update them on our efforts so far to preserve the Boston & MT Barn and invite them to become a partner in our effort.
- A TIF request has been submitted for façade alterations to the Corey Block downtown. While the building was built in 1890, it has lost a significant amount of integrity due to extensive exterior changes. Sam does not feel that the proposed changes will detract any further from the building's retaining integrity.
- Sam is reviewing a Section 106 consultation for a cell tower co-location on the roof of the Columbus Center.
- The City's annual board training is coming up on 2/20 and 2/21 at 5:30. City board appointees are required to attend training every two years.
- Plans for the upcoming Montana History Conference are beginning to gel, and the deadline to submit session proposals is approaching on March 3.

3. Annual CLG Grant Request

- Sam presented the annual grant requesting \$6,000 from the State Historic Preservation Office to support our local historic preservation program, and requested a motion to approve it for submission.
- Rich Ecke moved to approve the annual CLG grant request to SHPO. Ken Sievert seconded, and the motion carried.

4. 2024 Preservation Awards

- Sam has been brainstorming with Kristi Scott at The History Museum to think of ways that our two organizations can collaborate and better serve our community. An obvious example seemed to be combining our Preservation Awards with their Legacy Awards. This would reduce the work for staff of both organizations, reduce donor fatigue as we tend to go to the same people for sponsorships, increase combined attendance, and provide us both with an opportunity to educate a new audience about our respective missions. She asked the Commission for guidance on whether to proceed with the plan. The Commission discussed the prospect and agreed to proceed, with the request that there

be a distinction between the Preservation and Legacy awards when they are presented at the same event.

- Ellen moved to direct the HPO to plan a collaborative event with The History Museum for this year's Preservation Awards. Ken Robison seconded, and the motion carried.

5. Highland Development/Portage NHL Section 106 Report

- The Highland Development consulting group is beginning a draft Memorandum of Agreement, which will contain the group's consensus on the mitigation measures that will be required. Sam will distribute a copy of the draft with the packet for the next meeting and relay HPAC's comments to the consulting group.

6. Update on Activities of the Mary Fields Committee

- On March 15 there will be a gathering at the Masonic Temple in Cascade to raise funds for a statue of Mary Fields. Channing and Frank Laliberty will both be presenting on area history and the life of Fields.

7. Boston and Montana Barn Report

- No new report

8. Vinegar Jones Cabin Committee Report

- No new report

9. Reports from Commissioners

- Suzanne Waring announced that the Brother Van Museum had been selected as one of the locations to host a tour at the upcoming Montana History Conference.
- Ellen noted other locations that would be featured, such as the Ursuline Center, Paris Gibson Square, and the CM Russell Studio.
- Ken Robison reiterated the upcoming deadline to submit lecture proposals for the Conference, and encouraged anyone with a subject in mind to submit a proposal.

10. Public Comment

- There was no public comment.

Channing Hartelius adjourned the meeting at 12:46 PM.