

**Great Falls – Cascade County Historic Preservation Advisory Commission  
Minutes from the April 10, 2024 meeting, held in the PCD Conference 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:** Joe McKenney, Rae Grulkowski

**The meeting was called to order by Channing Hartelius at 12:00 PM**

**1. Approval of Meeting Minutes – March 13, 2023**

- Rich noted that the motion regarding the Vinegar Jones Cabin should read that the roof is being sealed with linseed oil.
- Ken Robison moved that the minutes be approved as amended. Rich Ecke seconded, and the motion carried.

**2. Native American Boarding School Research – Michael Dalton**

- Mike Dalton presented a recent publication of the National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition. He is working with the Ursuline Center to install an exhibit of the information presented within, which includes a history of Native American boarding schools and the effects they have had on the Native community.

**3. HPO Report**

- We have been awarded a \$5,000 grant from the Foundation for Montana History to install interpretive signage at St. Peter's Mission.
- There will be a ribbon cutting to celebrate the completion of the Civic Center façade restoration on April 19, which is the anniversary of its original dedication in 1940.
- The deadline to submit an application for the Great Falls Growth Policy Steering Committee is April 12.
- Sam will be out of the office April 30-May 3.

**4. Preservation Award Nominations**

- Ken Robison nominated the Civic Center façade restoration for a 2024 Historic Preservation Award. Chris Christiaens seconded, and the motion carried.
- Ellen Sievert nominated the OHaire Motor Inn for a 2024 Historic Preservation Award. Carol Bronson seconded, and the motion carried.

**5. Highland Development/Portage NHL Section 106 Report**

- The consulting parties are working their way through the comments collected on the proposed MoA. The group hopes to finish this process on a timeline of about three months, at which point the document will be put to public comment.

**6. Boston and Montana Barn Report**

- Sam is still working on arranging a site visit with Preservation Cascade, and intends to arrange a committee meeting with Park and Rec after that event.

**7. Vinegar Jones Cabin Committee Report**

- The individual that Ken S. proposed to do the roof work will not be able to work under City insurance, and so will not work out. Sam will investigate the possibility of having one of Park & Rec's employees do the work and having their hours be paid out of the Cabin fund.

## **8. Reports from Commissioners**

- Rich Ecke received clarification that HPAC members may serve until a replacement is appointed.
- Ken Robison reported the following:
  - A film about Mary Fields, which was put on hold for some years, has resumed production.
  - The Mullan Road Conference will be held in Spokane May 31-June 2.
  - On June 8<sup>th</sup> there will be a reunion of descendants of the Ft. Shaw Indian School Girls Basketball Team.
  - The MT History Conference has made their selection for this year's speakers and will announce them to the public soon.
  - Ken thanked Ellen for two decades of service to Cascade County historic preservation efforts, and thanked Rich, Carol, and Steve for their service.
- Rich expressed appreciation to Joe and Rae for their service as HPAC liaisons.
- Suzanne reported that the History Museum's Second Saturday event in April would be a tour of the Brother Van museum.
- Channing reminded us of the annual Great Falls Museum Sunday Sampler, occurring April 14. He also reported that the Mary Fields birthday celebration went well, and the community continues to raise money for a Fields statue.
- Chris relayed that the Providence Gallery is hosting an exhibit of the works of Sister Mary Trinitas and highly recommends a visit.

## **9. Public Comment**

- There was no public comment.

**Channing Hartelius adjourned the meeting at 1:06 PM.**