

**Great Falls – Cascade County Historic Preservation Advisory Commission
Minutes from the May 8, 2024 meeting, held in the PCD Conference Room at the Civic Center**

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

Members Absent: Steve Taylor

Staff Present: Samantha Long

Ex-Officio Members Present: Joe McKenney

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

1. Approval of Meeting Minutes – April 10, 2023

- Rich noted that his name was misspelled in item #1. He also noted, and Suzanne agreed, that he had offered the correction to the March minutes recorded in the same item, rather than her. In item #8, he stated that he had received clarification on the issue of HPAC term expiration, rather than clarifying it himself.
- Rich Ecke moved to approve the minutes as corrected. Chris Christiaens seconded, and the motion carried.

2. HPO Report

- Sam reported that the annual CLG grant with the State Historic Preservation Office was approved, providing \$6,000 toward her salary.
- The Civic Center ribbon cutting was held on April 19th, and was well-attended despite the snowy weather.
- An application has been submitted for TIF funding to rehabilitate the Roberts Building at 6th Street South. The Roberts Building was constructed in 1917, and is currently used as affordable housing. The rehabilitation will continue that use, but will repair historic features, upgrade living quarters, and improve ADA accessibility.

3. HPAC National Register Brochure

- Ken R. introduced an informative brochure that HPAC had produced several years ago, and proposed it be updated and re-published. Carol proposed that Commission members send their proposed edits to Sam before the next meeting.
- Joe McKenney suggested it may be possible to find a sponsor for the printing costs.
- Ken Robison proposed that the brochure be re-titled, edited, and re-printed. Rich Ecke seconded, and the motion carried.

4. Preservation Award Report

- Sam reported that preparations for the awards are going well, and the only items left to arrange were presenters for the two preservation awards. It was decided that Rich would present the award to the City for the Civic Center façade, and Channing would present the award to Sandra Johnson-Thares for the O’Haire Inn restoration.

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 in a few months, at which point the document will be put to public comment.

6. Boston and Montana Barn Report

- Sam is working on arranging a meeting with the Park & Recreation Department to ensure we have the same vision for the future of the Barn. There have been some delays arranging a site

visit with Preservation Cascade, but Rich volunteered to communicate with their President directly.

7. Vinegar Jones Cabin Committee Report

- Sam is coordinating with Park & Rec to arrange linseed application to the cabin roof through their staff and equipment.

8. Reports from Commissioners

- Carol Bronson inquired about the status of the Rocky Mountain Building. Rich suggested it be added to the June agenda, and Sam agreed.
- Channing reported that the Mary Fields group is pivoting to fundraising for a plaque honoring Fields rather than a bust, but was active and moving forward.
- Ken R. asked Channing about the status of the initiative to rename the post office in Cascade after Fields. Channing said he would look into it.
- Channing proposed a round of applause in appreciation of Arlyne Reichert, local preservation legend. The Commission heartily agreed.

9. Public Comment

- There was no public comment.

Channing Hartelius adjourned the meeting at 1:04 PM.