

**Great Falls – Cascade County Historic Preservation Advisory Commission
Minutes from the June 10, 2024 meeting, held in the PCD Conference Room at the Civic Center**

Members Present: Channing Hartelius, Stephanie Erdmann, Ken Sievert, Suzanne Waring, Ken Robison, David Erdmann, Jeanne Price

Members Absent: Megan Sanford, Chris Christiaens

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. Welcome New HPAC Members

- The four new members of HPAC were welcomed, and introductions were made around the table.

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes – May 8, 2024

- Stephanie Erdmann, David Erdmann, and Jeanne Price abstained, as they were not present at that meeting.
- Ken Robison moved to approve the minutes as written. Ken Sievert seconded, and the motion carried.

3. Approval of Meeting Minutes – May 11, 2024

- Stephanie Erdmann, David Erdmann, and Jeanne Price abstained, as they were not present at that meeting.
- Ken Robison noted that Stephanie and David Erdmann were recommended to the County Commission's vacancy, not the City's.
- Ken Robison moved to approve the minutes as written. Ken Sievert seconded, and the motion carried.

4. HPO Report

- Sam reported she has had a lot of positive feedback about the joint Preservation/Legacy Awards. Attendance was about 75 people, which is much higher than in recent years. Sam asked if HPAC had any initial thoughts.
 - Channing praised the event and said it was a success.
 - Ken R. said it had been fun but that he would like to see the event be less of an award ceremony and more of a reception to recognize preservation.
 - Joe McKenney suggested that attendance might be better on a weeknight, as the event has been in the past.
- The remodel of the Missouri Room of the Civic Center into municipal courtrooms is underway.
- At the last meeting the Commission had asked Sam to put the Rocky Mountain Building on the June agenda for discussion. Sam was able to secure a visit from the City's Building Official to talk about possible future directions from the City's perspective, but he had a conflict today. After consulting with Channing, Sam pushed that discussion out to the next regular meeting in August.
- Sam will be on vacation June 14-25

5. Highland Development/Portage NHL Section 106 Report

- Sam gave a brief overview of the Great Falls Portage National Historic Landmark and the proposed Highland Development which will affect it. Since the project will use Federal funds, the developer must avoid or mitigate adverse impacts to cultural resources. Sam introduced

the second draft of the Memorandum of Agreement which will outline the agreement between the developer, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, the National Park Service, and the US Department of Housing and Urban Development. She asked if HPAC had any comments as a consulting party. After some deliberation, the Commission agreed they would like some more time to study the details of the project, and would like to arrange a site visit.

- Ken Robison moved to hold a meeting in July to discuss the Highland Development, meeting at Noon at the Portage Overlook and then proceeding to the Civic Center for discussion. Jeanne Price seconded, and the motion carried.

6. Boston and Montana Barn Report

- Sam briefly summarized the history of this project for the new members. She reported that she has arranged a meeting with Park & Rec in early July, and would invite Rich Ecke to attend as he remains on the Barn Committee.

7. Vinegar Jones Cabin Committee Report

- Ken Sievert and Sam are working with the City to recoat the roof as soon as is practical.
- Ken Robison reported that HPAC and volunteers had gathered to clean the cabin and ready it for the summer. Since Warren is not able to open the cabin in the evening this summer, he has organized a sign-up sheet for HPAC members to volunteer.

8. Vote to Cancel July Meeting

- As noted above, HPAC will have a July meeting.

9. Reports from Commissioners

- Ken Robison reported the following
 - Gar Wood, respected local archaeologist most recently based in Fort Benton, passed recently.
 - The Fort Shaw Basketball reunion on the 20th anniversary of the monument installation was well attended and included a trip to visit the pharmacy in Fort Benton, where the team played games on the second floor
 - Work on the restoration of the Keelboat Mandan continues and there will be opportunities to volunteer this summer
 - The MT History conference is upcoming September 26-28, and HPAC is well represented in the tour schedule
 - Ellen Baumler, prolific Montana historian, passed last winter and a celebration of life will be held on July 8 in the State Capitol Rotunda
- Suzanne and Channing will be leading a tour of the Northside Residential Historic District on July 23rd at 5:30
- Channing reported that Bev Caldwell has produced a booklet on the history of Cascade and Mary Fields and it is being sold as a fundraiser for the plaque honoring Fields – contact Channing for details.

10. Public Comment

- There was no public comment.

Channing Hartelius adjourned the meeting at 1:16 P.M.