

**Great Falls – Cascade County Historic Preservation Advisory Commission
Minutes from the September 13 2023 meeting, held in the Gibson Room at the Civic Center**

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

Members Absent: Channing Hartelius, Ken Sievert

Staff Present: Samantha Long

Ex-Officio Members Present: Joe McKenney, Rae Grulkowski

The meeting was called to order by Rick Ecke at 12:00 PM

1. Approval of Meeting Minutes – August 9, 2023

- Chris Christiaens moved to approve the minutes as written. Ellen Sievert seconded, and the motion carried.

2. 2023 Ornament Selection

- Ken Robison moved to select Charles M. Russell High School as the 2023 Ornament. Chris Christiaens seconded, and the motion carried.

3. Vinegar Jones Cabin Committee Report

- No current report on ongoing work
- The volunteer appreciation dinner was well-attended and enjoyed by all

4. Boston and Montana Barn Report

- Sam has received a draft of the structural report from the architect, and is currently reviewing it. She will likely ask for some revisions, but may have a final document ready for the October meeting.

5. HPO Report

- Sam has compiled a set of photos documenting the Missouri Room before its conversion into court space.
- Sam and Tom attended a meeting of stakeholders in the Section 106 review process for the proposed Highland Subdivision, and it was a productive conversation about the possible strategies for mitigating potential damage to cultural resources on the parcel.
- The First Peoples Buffalo Jump had a planning event August 12 in conjunction with their annual bison hunt.
- Civic Center staff are in the process of producing an estimate for the cost of repairs to the ceiling of the Mansfield Theater, which will be funded by the Montana Historic Preservation Grant secured earlier this year.
- Sam had a conversation with the owner of a small historic apartment building near downtown that is dealing with a major failing in the masonry façade. She relayed all the funding sources she could produce, but ultimately the only feasible option may be to re-side the building.
- Upcoming Events
 - GFDA will host a gathering at City Bar on Sept 21 celebrating Brownfield successes in town and sharing upcoming opportunities
 - The Montana History Conference is upcoming September 28-30 in Helena
 - The MT Main Street Conference is in Great Falls this year from Oct 18-20

6. Reports from Commissioners

- Ken Robison reported that the Union Bethel AME church has submitted a grant request to the National Trust for Historic Preservation for masonry repair.
- Steve Taylor reported that the New City Church, located in the Great Falls Tribune building, is trying to find a home for the Tribune sign mounted on their building.

7. Public Comment

- There was no public comment.

8. Adjourn

- Rich Ecke adjourned the meeting at 12:40 PM