

**Great Falls/Cascade County Historic Preservation Advisory Commission**  
**Minutes from the March 8, 2017 Meeting, held in the Rainbow Room—Civic Center**

**Members Present:** Carol Bronson, Carole Ann Clark, Del Darko, Sandra French, Peter Jennings, Ruthann Knudson, Kenneth Robison, Kristi Scott, Ken Sievert

**Staff Present:** Tom Micuda

**Ex-Officio Present:** Joan Redeen, Jane Weber

**Guests Present:** Bill Bronson, Lisa Kunz, Sara Sexe, Ellen Sievert

The meeting was called to order by Chair Kristi Scott at 12:05 PM. Introductions followed, with a welcome to new member Peter Jennings. Ken Robison moved that the minutes from the February meeting be approved; Ruthann Knudson seconded and the minutes were approved unanimously.

**HPO Report:** Tom Micuda passed out the Report for January/February. He would like to have the East Side Neighborhood committee meet to discuss the location and installation of the National Register sign for the District. Because we usually have our Historic Preservation Awards ceremony in May, Tom will check on room availability, and everyone is encouraged to seek nominations for the awards. Carol Bronson thanked Tom for his work on the NHA as well as the HPAC.

**Presentation by Sara Sexe & Lisa Kunz concerning Open Door Law rules & communication between Commission members:** Sara & Lisa presented a very helpful power point with handouts, clarifying the City's position on open meetings, public records (such as meeting minutes and group electronic conversations between members of City Boards & Commissions), and the statutory basis for them. Sara and Lisa noted that HPAC members can always remove agenda items from a meeting, but agenda items cannot be added at the meetings themselves. They also clarified how meeting quorum rules worked, specifically that four out of nine members can still constitute a quorum for HPAC. Also, members phoning into the meeting do not count towards a meeting quorum. If the member can be seen through SKYPE, he or she counts toward a quorum. Meeting minutes should be revised to include date, time, and place of the meeting. Meetings containing a quorum of members must be noticed. As for meeting procedures, ex-officio members should only ask questions after voting members finish.

**Report on Historic Downtown Trolley Discussion:** The trolley has been owned by DGFA since 2013; it has lost money every year since. It needs expensive repairs and more drivers so it can run more tours. Membership dues and fundraisers are the only other sources of income. DGFA may try to sell the trolley. HPAC is an investor; would the investors recoup their money if it is sold? Tom and HPAC will be notified of the next investors meeting.

**Further Commission discussion on increasing awareness of under-appreciated historic sites (Hill 57, Vivendi site, etc.):** Ruthann noted that the 2500 year old Vivendi site is to the south of the water treatment plant & should have an interpretive sign. Such signage could be similar to those at the Vinegar Jones cabin, which would cost about \$600. The signage would have to be locally funded rather than done by SHPO. Ruthann will send more information on the site. Kristi said our Strategic Plan should include prehistory.

**Discussion of upcoming Commission appointments:** Peter is finishing Paivi Hoikkala's appointment and can be appointed for the full term in April. Ruthann's term is up in April, and she indicated interest in serving for another term. Ken Robison terms out in April, so we'll need a new county appointee.

**Commissioner announcements:** Jane Weber noted that CTA of Bozeman is doing the feasibility study for the Rainbow powerhouse. The City and County are signing off on an MOU.

**Public Comment:** Bill Bronson said the broadcast of HPAC's presentation to the City Commissioners last year got a lot of interest. This year the City Commission determined that each member will observe various City Boards & Commissions. Bill will be observing HPAC, the Planning Advisory Board, & the Design Review Board. This will allow members of these three boards to communicate more directly with Bill on initiatives of mutual interest. For example, when design standards for downtown are considered, HPAC may comment on historical elements, & work

with the Planning Board & developers. Ken Robison applauded the City's willingness to work with the Boards and Commissions.

**Next regular meeting date**—April 12, 2017.

**Adjourn Meeting:** 1:30 PM

Respectfully submitted, Carole Ann Clark, Secretary