

Great Falls/Cascade County Historic Preservation Advisory Commission

Sub-Committee Meeting

Minutes from the July 12, 2017 Meeting, held in the Rainbow Room---Civic Center

Members Present: Ruthann Knudson, Chair; Ken Robison, Sandra French, Kristi Scott,

Members Absent: Mark Bodily

Staff Present: Brad Eatherly

Guests Present: None

The meeting was called to order at 12:01 PM.

Vivendi site: Ruthann discussed potential interpretive signs for various archaeological sites with Patty Rearden, Interim Director of the City of Great Falls Parks and Recreation Department. HPAC (or the subcommittee) should bring a draft interpretive sign with layout, text/graphics, suggested location, and proposed budget and funding sources to the Great Falls Park & Recreation Board for their approval before going further with funding and/or production. The City would probably install the sign. Kristi Scott talked to Bruce Pollington of the River's Edge Trail Foundation to discuss possible options to recognize the Native People's influence on the area. A possible steel tipi was presented as an idea, with participation and input from the sub-committee in the future. Quick Response matrix barcodes were also discussed as potential options to be placed on interpretive signs that would lead to a website or some other form of information.

Sun River site: The Sun River Site should be recognized at a future date. The privately-owned Sun River archaeological site, with its three prehistoric components that date from 5000 to 2100 years ago, merits interpretation and recognition. The site is in the County just west of the Corps of Engineers levee west of Wadsworth Park. Wadsworth Park is a potential site for an interpretive sign recognizing the Sun River site, since the park is a developed recreation area within the city.

Wadsworth site: Ruthann introduced information about a previously unknown prehistoric archaeological site within Wadsworth Park, on which more information needs to be collected and the site registered. Ruthann told Patty Rearden at GF Park & Recreation about it, and she is searching for more information about the collections from the site. She has also asked CTA Architects for their map of Wadsworth Park, which they did ~20 years ago as part of the Wadsworth Park Master Plan. That can be used with the collectors to help describe the find location and register the site. She has already started illustrating the collection for the site form. This is an important site that needs protection, which we hope the public that find out about it will respect and leave intact. This site also merits an interpretive sign once we know more about it, and that is a future project.

Wider recognition of Native Americans in the Great Falls area: There was discussion regarding the subcommittee not only focusing on archaeological sites but recognizing the influence Native culture has had on the area at-large. Possible other sites include Hill 57, West Bank, Black Eagle, Indian Hill, etc. Many of these sites could utilize the popular River's Edge Trail for interpretive signage. It is imperative to reach out to Native Peoples for input and direction for these endeavors.

Recommendation for HPAC: At the next HPAC meeting, the subcommittee will recommend that there is a need for recognizing the Native Peoples in the area. The sub-committee will attempt to design, authorize, consult with tribal nations, fund, and construct an interpretive sign at the Vivendi site as a first

project. An official name for the sub-committee would also be considered for the next HPAC meeting with Native People and/or Native Recognition names being suggested.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:09 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Brad Eatherly, City of Great Falls staff.