

**Great Falls/Cascade County
Historic Preservation Advisory Commission**

**MINUTES from the
May 8, 2013 meeting**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Bob Milford, Sandi French, Ken Sievert, Carole Ann Clark, Carol Bradley, Kelly Parks, Ken Robison, ex-officio members Kristi Scott and Joan Redeen

MEMBERS ABSENT: Carol Bronson, Ryan Forde

STAFF PRESENT: Ellen Sievert

GUESTS PRESENT: City planners Ida Meehan and Jodell Lepley; Vista employee Bethany Salmon

HPAC Chair Bob Milford called the meeting to order at 12 noon. Ken Sievert moved to approve minutes from the April 10, 2013 meeting, Carol Bronson seconded the motion and the minutes were approved unanimously.

HPO REPORT: Among other things, Ellen filed ~~a- the final Certified Local Government quarterly report for 2012-2013 quarterly Certified Local Government report~~ with SHPO, ~~and~~ The state disbursed \$5,500 to HPAC, which the commission matched with \$34,845.37 cash and in-kind services ~~for the year.~~ She attending several rehearsals for and helped arrange the Brothel Tours with the Downtown Chicks. She met with Randy Hafer and Adam Baumgartner from High Plains Architects re: the original blueprints for the Rocky Mountain Building, which were among those located in Civic Center vault; she reported that EPA work has been completed on the Rocky Mountain and Arvon buildings. She took part in the Downtown Development Partnership marketing committee meeting to discuss the development of the DDP website, which will be funded by a Montana Main Street Technical Assistance grant.

HISTORIC TROLLEY: Commissioners voted unanimously to appoint HPAC chair Bob Milford to represent the commission on the newly formed trolley board. Carol Bronson made the motion and Carole Ann Clark seconded. In a separate vote, commissioners voted unanimously to fund \$3,000 to the trolley partnership. Kelly Parks moved to do so and Carole Ann Clark seconded.

RAINBOW POWERHOUSE: Ellen reported that the owner of the Rainbow powerhouse, PPL, has extended until 2017 the deadline for coming up with future plans for the structure. She will meet with PPL representatives May 14. MSU Great Falls College is conducting a survey about future programs and Ellen said would be an opportunity to encourage a sustainable energy program that could incorporate the powerhouse as a historic resource. Classes could be held in the powerhouse. Ellen said PPL could qualify for tax credits should they decide to repurpose the building.

MONARCH DEPOT: The fate of the depot is up in the air in light of a letter from CTEP questioning plans to turn it over to a non-profit group. According to CTEP, the depot has to be owned by the county and operated as a transportation museum to qualify for CTEP funding. Meanwhile, the state Department of Transportation has offered \$25,000 to the non-profit group formed to operate the depot, but says the group has to purchase the property the depot is on. An appraisal is under way on the property,

FORT SHAW: As a matter of interest, Ken Sievert reported that he has completed ~~restructuring plans- a Historic Structure Report~~ for Fort Shaw, at the request of the board overseeing the site. He's recommending the buildings be restored to the period when they served as a military outpost. He said most of the adobe structures are in good condition.

PRESERVATION AWARDS RECEPTION: HPAC's annual Preservation Awards reception will be held May 23 in the Missouri Room of the Civic Center. In a meeting to discuss award nominations

on May 1, commissioners voted to honor The Ursuline Centre, the Baum-Trinastich Building, Nelson Architects and Dick Anderson Construction for their work on the Great Falls Water Treatment Plant filter building; Kathryn Van Tighem for work on her Craftsman bungalow at 1405 4th Ave. N.; the Downtown Great Falls Association for helping saving the historic trolley and for conducting historic tours; VISTA employee Bethany Salmon for her work on historic preservation issues; and Great Falls High School. Commissioners agreed to make the GFH award an all-encompassing one that would recognize the efforts of those who recognize the significance of the Late Collegiate Gothic Revival school, among them the task force exploring renovation plans, architects Phil Faccenda and Darrell Swanson for putting together a National Register nomination and artist Shearee Nelson for designing the pewter Christmas ornament of the school. Commissioners confirmed the honorees along with Ellen's suggestion to have Great Falls High Principal Jane Gregoire accept the community icon award honoring the school. Commissioners Carol Bradley and Ken Sievert recused themselves on the vote re: Great Falls High. Otherwise, the nominations were approved unanimously.

PANTAGES THEATER: Ellen reported that musician Phillip Aaberg and the committee interested in restoring the old Pantages Theater in the Rocky Mountain Building are almost ready to move ahead with their plans. The theater would have to be operated on a non-profit basis. A number of organizations in town are looking for a space the size of the old theater, which would seat about 450.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER'S POSITION: Commissioners expressed concern that, due to budget constraints brought about by a settlement payment the city of Great Falls must pay to Electric City Power, the city does not plan to fill the HPO position when Ellen retires effective June 27. Ellen said city officials do seem to recognize the need to maintain the advisory commission, which is necessary in order to keep the city's CLG status with the state. She and Bob Milford will meet with City Manager Greg Doyon on May 14 to discuss matters. Ellen has told city officials she is willing to continue in the position on a consulting basis for the next several months. She said she thinks the vacancy will be temporary.

HPAC's next regular meeting is at noon June 13 in the Rainbow Room at the Civic Center.

Respectfully submitted by
Carol Bradley
HPAC secretary