

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

**MINUTES from the
February 12, 2014 meeting**

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Sandi French, Ryan Forde

STAFF PRESENT: Ellen Sievert

GUESTS PRESENT: Craftsman Bungalow Consultant Mark Hufstetler, Lee Nellis & Jodell Lepley from the City Planning Office, and Jane Weber

HPAC Chair Bob Milford called the meeting to order at 12:05 pm & asked for approval of minutes from the January meeting. Carole Ann moved to approve minutes from the 11/13 meeting and Ken Robison seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

HPO REPORT: Ellen's report covers her work in January in great detail. She called attention to the tabling of the Rocky Mountain/Pantages Theatre project which will not be pursued further at this time. Ellen and others from HPAC attended the conference in Butte to fulfill CLG requirements and found it both informative and fulfilling. She noted that Great Falls had a healthy representation there that was noted by others. She continues to work on the contract for CLG. Additional regular updates in her extensive report are covered further below.

MNHG: Commissioner Jane Weber reported that the Monarch-Neihart Historic Group did submit an application for a CTEP grant and the County did not give them any funding at this time. MNHG then submitted for a TA grant which ranked low and was also not funded. ADA & rural transportation seemed to be better supported by TA and the group's historic project did not garner support. MNHG's primary need at this time is a new roof for the historic train depot. Cascade County is concentrating on the new roof for the Court House with CTEP funds and a RFQ has been put out for this project that may begin in October or November of 2014.

CRAFTSMAN DISTRICT: Committee member Carole Ann Clark reported that a consensus has appointed the district boundaries- both sides of Central Ave and 1st Ave North. Five site forms are due by the end of March. Chains of title have been worked on diligently by Jerry and Carole Ann Clark and many photographs have been taken by other committee member and will be uploaded to a special site. Consultant Mark Hufstetler's contract for this project is on the City Commissioners list for the next meeting.

HISTORIC TROLLEY: Bob Milford reported that the Trolley is busy getting fees, schedules and other business sorted. A storage garage at the Pre-Release is empty and will be rented for the Trolley for a very low cost. Marco is selling advertising according to Joan Reeden.

LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE: Lee Nellis reported that four sub committees have been formed- Medical District, Industrial Land Supply (especially light industrial), Commercial Corridors (redevelopment of commercial properties), and Residential infill Group. The committees will meet monthly and HPAC members are encouraged to join a committee. The estimated time of completion is February 2015.

DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP: There was no meeting in December and things were off to a slow start in January. They are waiting to hear on the Main-Street grant. Carol Bronson commented on the website information and the opportunities that include listing historic sites. There us a meeting 2/26 at 9am at Neighbor Works.

SRVHS: Ken Sievert reported that he is finishing the last of the Historic Structures Report and that the primary goal of the Sun River Valley Historical Society is to stabilize the headquarters at the Fort

that is so important to this region. Two cut sandstone utility washhouses that are related to the Indian Industrial School are badly eroding at the bases and repairs are slated. Bob Milford has worked with Jerry Cooper to get the sandstone needed. It was mentioned by several committee members that the SRVHS does a great job at finding funding resources for matching monies on projects. Ken Sievert mentioned that recent investigation shows that there is a connection between Fort Shaw and the Greenfields Irrigation Project and that the Bureau of Reclamation has tremendous archival resources that need catalogued.

RAINBOW DAM POWERHOUSE: Jane Weber clarified that HPAC and others in the community do not want the historic powerhouse torn down. There is potential for a possible project with the College/MSU. Jane met with Mel Lehman (MSU) and Claudia Rapkoch (of NW Energy) who are both supportive. This is encouraging as NW Energy moves to purchase the dams from PPL. A meeting should be set up.

2014 GOALS & OBJECTIVES: Ellen sent out copies the revised 2014 goals & objectives for HPAC for committee members to review prior to this meeting, after a committee comprised of Lee Nellis, Kristi Scott, Carol Bronson, Bob Milford and Ellen Sievert met and updated the goals & objectives and noted that they will go up on the City's website. Ken Robison moved that we approved the new version and Kelly Parks seconded the motion. All were in favor and they are unanimously approved.

OTHER: The Preservation Awards Reception is scheduled for the Missouri Room at the Civic Centre for May 22nd, 2014 from 5:30-7:00. We are looking for Committee volunteers. The City Commission is taking comments on 2/18 regarding tax abatements for rehabilitation of historic properties. Ken Robison invited all to attend the annual Black Heritage Evening at the Public Library 2/13 at 6pm. Bob Milford questioned if the Cowboy Bar & Museum may be eligible to be part of the great Falls Museums Consortium with their historic collections.

HPAC's next regular meeting is at noon March 12th in the Rainbow Room at the Civic Center.

Respectfully submitted by
Kristi Scott,
HPAC secretary