

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

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Bob Milford, Ken Robison, Ken Sievert, Carole Ann Clark, Kelly Parks, Kristi Scott, Ryan Forde, ~~Carol Bronson~~, ex-officio ~~BJD~~ members Joan Redeen and Carol Bronson
MEMBERS ABSENT: Ryan Smith and Sandi French, **STAFF PRESENT:** Ellen Sievert
GUESTS PRESENT: Mark Hufstetler, Carol Bradley and Jane Weber

HPAC Vice-Chair Ryan Forde called the meeting to order at 12:05 pm & asked for approval of minutes from the February meeting. Ken Robison moved to approve minutes from the 2/12 meeting and Ken Sievert seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

HPO REPORT: Ellen has been working to finalize the CLG and Craftsman contracts. She attended the City Commission meeting on tax abatement for historic properties and tax increment districts/financing. An intellectual conversation ensued on tax abatement and historic properties as well as Business Improvement District incentives. Additional regular updates in her extensive report are covered in detail in her report and also below.

VISTIOERS CENTER & CULTURAL COUNCIL: HPAC had a lively discussion about the City closing the Visitors Center on July 1st, 2014. It was suggested that TBID or CVB might be able to pick it up. The Visitors Center costs 58k annually to operate and is running 23k short. There is a reorganization of a local Cultural Council that might include all of the cultural aspects of the area in the future (Art Association of Montana, Great Falls Museums Consortium, the Symphony, etc) and enhance/promote their role in the cultural tourism economy of Great Falls.

CRAFTSMAN DISTRICT: Committee Chair Carol Bradley reported that the 1500 Block of Central and 1st Ave North have been selected and are being researched. She reports that we are on track to be finished with Mr. Hufstetler's help by June 1, 2014. We are looking for a name for the district.

HISTORIC TROLLEY: Joan Reeden reported that the Trolley is selling advertising to those that are interested. The Trolley will be in the St. Patrick's Day parade this Saturday and will facilitate a Pub Crawl initiated by the Celtic Cowboy. Routine maintenance is happening and a free place has been secured for the Trolley's storage.

MNHG: Commissioner Jane Weber reported that the first newsletter has been sent out by the group. Ellen wrote a letter of support for them for a Montana History Foundation grant and Kristi edited their proposal for the grant.

ACTION ITEMS: A press release has been sent out for nominations for the 2014 Historic Preservation Awards. The deadline for nominations is April 8th and organizations, individuals and projects are eligible. The theme this year is "Building on the Past" and a reception will be held on May 22nd.

OTHER: There are two City appointed openings with HPAC. We would like Bob to continue as an ex officio member who represents the Trolley. The Parking Commission needs appointees also. The MT Main Street Planning Grant has been approved and 6 storefront designs will be approved through a competitive application process. Bob reminded all that Site Stewardship Training is available May 16th & 17th at the L & C National Forest Supervisor's Office for those that are interested.

The HPAC meeting adjourned at 1:15 and our next regular meeting is at noon April 9th in the Rainbow Room at the Civic Center.

Respectfully submitted by Kristi Scott, HPAC secretary