

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

**MINUTES from the
April 9, 2014 meeting**

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Ryan Forde, Ken Robison

STAFF PRESENT: Ellen Sievert

GUESTS PRESENT: Mark Hufstetler, Lee Nellis and Jane Weber

HPAC Chair Sandi French called the meeting to order at 12:03 pm & asked for approval of minutes from the March meeting. Bob Milford moved to approve minutes as amended from the 3/12 meeting and Kelly Parks seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

HPO REPORT: Ellen remains busy with the part time position as Historic Preservation Officer that requires additional donated time every month. She remains diligent on the issues of tax abatement for historic properties. The Main Street building permit statistics are due for the quarterly report to the Department of Commerce.. Joan Reeden was asked to email the group data from 2013 Montana Main Street reports. Additional regular updates are in Ellen's extensive report and some are covered in detail below.

CRAFTSMAN DISTRICT: Craftsman District Committee volunteer timesheets are needed at this time to quantify hours. Committee Chair Carol Bradley reported that the committee met prior to HPAC and that project will be completed by June 1, 2014 with Mark Hufstetler at the helm. The SHPO package for historical nomination to the National Register is being prepared. Mark asks us to be on the lookout for information regarding area builders during this historic time frame. A name is still sought for the district. Ken Sievert has done additional work on 16 sites and Mark expressed how impressed he is with this HPAC committee pulling together and taking on much of the research needed to complete this project.

ACTION ITEMS: There are two board openings to fill as Ryan Forde and Bob Milford have City terms ending soon. Two qualified applicants were reviewed and are approved by HPAC members to be recommended to the Council: Paivi Hoikkala and Sarah Burt. It was noted by many on HPAC that we not only attract very qualified members, we also retain ex-officio members who remain interested and willing to help. HPAC is able to accomplish many ambitious projects every year thanks to our leader, Ellen, and Board members past and present. Kelly Parks moved we recommend Paivi and Sarah to fill the vacant positions and Ken Sievert seconded. All were in favor and the motion passed.

The 2014 Preservation Awards were discussed and three projects have been approved: The Monarch Neihart Historic Group nominated by Jane Weber; the Arvon Building project nominated by a local historian, a local contractor and a tax attorney; the Craftsman Committee nominated by Ellen for putting together successful grants and a great team that has gathered an impressive bank of information. The awards will be given away on May 22nd at the celebration from 5:30-7:30. The Preservation Sisterhood will be working to pull it all together and is seeking volunteers. Ken Sievert moved we accept and Kelly Parks seconded. All were in favor and motion passed to award the three above mentioned groups.

The 2014 ornament was discussed. Nominations included a Craftsman ornament and the Masonic Temple. The Masonic Temple will celebrate a centennial this year and makes a likely choice. Kelly Parks made a motion we accept and Bob Milford seconded. All were in favor and the motion was approved to recognize the Masonic Temple as the 2014 Christmas Ornament. This will be announced at the HPAC Preservation Awards 5/22. Research will be done and a tour set up.

Great Fall's Visitors Center is slated to close its doors July 1st, 2014. The City will no longer operate the building which Bob pointed out is easy for visitors to locate via the big flag. TBID, CVB, the Chamber and others are working to keep it open. This is a big deal for HPAC as it promotes historic projects/initiatives that we recognize and work on to better our community. HPAC recognizes the role of historical and cultural tourism economy of Great Falls. The Visitor's Center promotes everything from the Trolley to the Northside Walking tour and so much more and we support keeping it open. A motion was made by Kelly Parks that we write a letter in support of the Visitors Center that will go to TBID, CVB, Chamber, Tribune, City Commissioners and others. Carol Ann Clark seconded the motion and all voted in favor. Motion passed.

OTHER: Ken Sievert presented the idea of participating in the Heritage Festival September 20 & 21st, 2014 at the Fairgrounds that is being put on by the Treasure State Fly Wheelers. We favorably discussed having a booth for HPAC there and Ellen was asked to present her slide show on the Fairgrounds. Her presentation contains over a 160 slides that need to be digitized. Discussion followed on the importance of this history for Cascade County and our desire to preserve it in presentation form.

Ellen noted that June 7th is National Trails Day and that we may want to offer Northside Walking Tours. Joan reminded all that the Trolley is offering an Art Tour April 26th with a progressive dinner. June 1st the Trolley begins regular tours and this year a special discount/promotion is being offered for local residents. Kristi mentioned a new exhibit commemorating the centennial of the 14th amendment that is open at the History Museum.

The HPAC meeting adjourned at 1:16 and our next regular meeting is at noon May 14th in the Rainbow Room at the Civic Center.

Respectfully submitted by Kristi Scott, HPAC secretary