

**Great Falls-Cascade County
Historic Preservation Advisory Commission
Minutes, May 13, 2015**

Members Present: Sandra French, Päivi Hoikkala, Kelly Parks, Kenneth Robison, Kristi Scott, Ken Sievert, Ryan Smith

Staff Present: Ellen Sievert, Lee Nellis, Gregory Gordos

Guests Present: Ex-officio members Carol Bronson and Jane Weber; other guests Ruthann Knudson and Michael Witsoe

Chair Sandra French called meeting to order at 12 p.m. and requested approval of minutes. Ken Sievert proposed changes in the section Courthouse Roof Replacement Project: strike 'gauge' (line 3) and replace 'bid proposal' with 'report' (line 6); with these changes, Ken Sievert moved and Kristi Scott seconded approval of minutes; unanimously approved.

HPO Report: In addition to her regular HPAC duties, Ellen Sievert continued work on the Heritage planning; she started planning and arrangements for the May 14 Historic Preservation Award Reception; a letter to the school superintendent and trustees re. the need for a cultural resource survey of all schools.

Brief Updates:

- Great Falls Schools Proposal: there is no response yet from the school district in response to the letter; Ellen and Lee Nellis will write a guest editorial (550 words).
- Preservation Awards: the event will honor the nationally recognized cultural resources in the region and connect to the Heritage Area planning; Lee suggested recognizing Bill Bronson for his role in the effort; Sara Burt will also be remembered.
- National Heritage Area: Lee Nellis reported on the organizational meeting, will check with TBID if he can find some start-up money for the newly-formed Board; NHA exhibit will be up at the Mullan Road conference in Fort Benton and the Lewis and Clark Festival in Great Falls. Discussion followed re. the letter to Rep. Ryan Zinke; Kenneth Robison moved that similar letter be sent to the entire Congressional delegation, Ryan Smith seconded; motion carried. City and County Commissioners, the seven new board members, Governor's Office, state representatives and SHPO will be copied.
- Court House Roof Replacement: the consultant has requested that HPAC write a letter in support of the County in this project to SHPO; Ken Sievert so moved, Kenneth Robison seconded, motion carried. Regarding the discussion of some members not having received the report, Jane Weber emphasized that members can always talk to County Commissioners.

HPAC Reappointment Recommendation: Kelly Parks moved that HPAC support that the City reappoint Sandra French and Carole Ann Clarke and Ruthann Knudson's letter of interest; Päivi Hoikkala seconded; motion carried.

Announcements/Other Business/Public Comment: Michael Witsoe announced the visit of a film crew; Ken Sievert announced that the Fort Shaw annual clean-up has uncovered U.S. Army tents that possibly date back to the Fort; Kristi Scott discussed the Ursuline Center's plans to have the ethnographic materials remain on a long-term loan here in Great falls now that the Foundation has purchased the building and urged HPAC, in such an event, to write a letter of support. Jane Weber announced the National Trails Day on June 6, 2015.

Next Regular Meeting: June 10, 2015, in the Civic Center

Meeting adjourned at 1:03 p.m.

In the absence of our secretary, minutes submitted by Päivi Hoikkala