

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

Minutes from the June 10, 2015 meeting

Members Present: Carole Ann Clark, Sandra French, Paivi Hoikkala, Kelly Parks, Kenneth Robison, Kristi Scott, Ken Sievert

Members Absent: Ryan Smith

Staff Present: Ellen Sievert

Guests Present: Ruthann Knudson, Kristen McGuire

Ex-Officio: Robert Milford, Joan Redeen, Jane Weber

HPAC Chair Sandi French called the meeting to order & asked for approval of minutes from the May 13th meeting. Ken Robison moved to approve the May minutes & Ken Sievert seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

HPO Report: May is traditionally “Historic Preservation Month”, an opportunity for the HPAC to celebrate preservation successes at our Award Reception. Other groups charge for these events & perhaps we should consider some types of fundraising. The Missouri River Area National Heritage Planning Corporation has been created & Jane Weber is heading the creation of a board, with HPAC as an advisor.

Brief Updates: There was some discussion about the proposal for a cell phone tower at Great Falls High School. A city ordinance does not allow them on Historic Buildings or their grounds unless they are fully obscured. Kelly Parks moved that HPAC send a letter to the City Commission & the Planning Department, and Paivi Hoikkala seconded. Ruthann Knudson will draft the letter. There is still a need for a complete survey and assessment of all the schools, especially since the city is expanding to the North. A letter recommending this will be written & sent, as approved at the May meeting.

The Preservation Awards went well. The Heritage Area display was excellent, as was the food. Michael Duchemin was not able to be there, so he will be presented the Award for the Russell home & studio at a later date.

The next meeting to discuss the Rainbow Power House will be June 23 at 4 PM. The NHA group will meet at the Civic Center on June 24 at 12 Noon.

Lewis & Clark Festival: A volunteer schedule was sent around to sign up for manning the Vinegar Jones cabin during the Festival; the NHA exhibit should be nearby and the volunteers will coordinate.

HPAC appointment recommendation: Ruthann Knudson has applied for the vacancy on the Commission. Ken Robison moved that her name be sent to the City Commission for approval; Kelly Parks seconded. The appointment will be reviewed at the June 16 meeting.

Announcements/Other Business/Public comment: Painting will start on the Russell home soon. The Vinegar Jones fund has money for interpretive signs along the path leading to the cabin. Because of concerns about the future preservation of the cabin, the signs will emphasize the importance of it and help with protection. Ken Robison & Carol Bronson have done designs for them & they will be made to fit standard metal frames. Parks & Recreation will help with the placement of the signs.

Next Regular Meeting: August 12, 2015

The HPAC meeting adjourned at 1:15 PM.

Respectively submitted by Carole Ann Clark, Secretary