

Great Falls/Cascade County
Historic Preservation Advisory Commission
Minutes from the ~~June~~-July 29, 2016 Meeting

Members Present: Sandra French, Paivi Hoikkala, Kristi Scott, Kenneth Robison, Del Darko Ken Sievert,

Members Absent: Ryan Smith, Ruthann Knudson, Carole Ann Clark

Staff Present: Craig Raymond , Tom Micuda,

Chair Sandra French called the meeting to order at 4:05pm.

Action Items: A discussion regarding the proposed Portage Solar development, which prompted this meeting, ensued. Two meetings ago the proposed project was brought to our attention but since that time no one has consulted with HPAC. Two County Board of Adjustment meetings have been held and there is a lot of public interest in the project. As a result, HPAC feels that it is time we chime in as the project is adjacent to a significant historic property, the Lewis and Clark Portage Route. Tom Micuda and Sandra French presented a packet to HPAC members with maps of both the Portage National Historic Landmark and the proposed solar project, a letter from the National Park Service and the original National Register Application for the Portage Route. The property is bound by 33rd and 40th Ave South and 13th Street South. Sandra read the letter from the Park Service weighing in on the proximity of the solar project to the protected Portage Route that urged a 106 Review process be undertaken. HPAC discussed being thorough and fair since there are some unknowns about the proposal's impact to the historic resource at this time. There is interest at a national level with the Department of the Interior, and we would like to better understand the implications of the proposed project as well. HPAC unanimously decided to send a letter with our comments to the County Board of Adjustment prior to their next scheduled meeting, August 17, 2016. Ken Robison moved that we send a letter to the County Planning Department and Pavi Hoikkala seconded the motion. All were in favor and none was opposed.

It was noted that important facts with a big proposal such as the Portage Solar project mandate a full-time HPO, which we are currently without. Kristi Scott made a motion that we recommend Tom Micuda as the acting/interim Historic Preservation Officer and Ken Robison seconded the motion. All approved, none were opposed. Tom will be a welcome fill-in and has Craig's blessing. Sandi will send a letter to SHPO notifying them.

Announcements/Other Business/Public Comment: Craig Raymond gave us a general briefing in regards to a couple of historic properties that should be on our radar in coming months. With code enforcement and interested parties being made aware of the issues, Craig is hopeful for positive resolutions.

Next Regular Meeting: September 14, 2016, noon. The meeting was adjourned at 5:05 PM.
Respectfully submitted, Kristi Scott, Acting Secretary