

City of Colville

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

March 21, 2014

10:00 a.m. – City Hall

MINUTES

The Colville Historic Preservation Commission met for a regular meeting on Friday, March 21, 2014, in the Council Room at City Hall. Chairman Russ Larsen called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. without a quorum present.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Russ Larsen, Bruce Dietz, and Avrum Baum. Terry Cripps arrived after roll call. MEMBERS ABSENT: Alan Bedford and Tony Harmon. One vacancy exists. STAFF PRESENT: Planning Director Jim Lapinski. OTHERS PRESENT: John Hodde and Raymond Driggs. RECORDING SECRETARY: Susan Davis.

Due to the lack of a quorum, the agenda was reordered at this time to consider Reports.

REPORTS

- Walla Walla to Military Fort Colville Road. Planning Director Jim Lapinski explained that research for the Walla Walla to Military Fort Colville Road has progressed and lots of information has been found and logged. A meeting was held in January at the museum to discuss the Colville section of the road. Jim pointed out there is an interpretive center or something at the other end of the road and suggested maybe ideas about the Colville end could be explored, such as a replicate of Fort Colville. He noted even though the site of the fort is outside the city limits it is of interest to the City and others in the region because of its potential benefit as a historical destination point.

At this time, Terry Cripps arrived establishing a quorum.

Guests John Hodde and Raymond Driggs were present to share historical information regarding the road or any other items of interest. Mr. Hodde indicated he was present to answer any questions.

Raymond Driggs explained that he read about the road project in the Silverado Express. He recollected at one time a picture appeared in an old Colville newspaper showing the fort just south of Douglas Falls and north of his place, presumably between the falls and the County gravel pit. He found it interesting that the article with the picture said they needed \$500 to finish the fort. Another story from his childhood was that the valley, from Douglas Falls to the golf course, had over 10,000 people in it for about a year and it was called tent city. Raymond recalled that some of the early settlers in the area were named Clark, Poole, and Rowe. He noted the Silverado Express also mentioned a former brick yard at the golf course, which reminded him of times he and his brother found blue clay in some holes in the middle of Chopot's mill yard. The holes appeared to have been for kilns for a brick yard. Some of the bricks that they found there and in the area were stamped with the word "Columbia."

Russ Larsen mentioned an old map that was on display at The Heritage Network meeting in January that showed the area of the fort and indicated that Pinkney City at one time was called Colville. He stated the map showed the Colville Road going right into the fort. Raymond pointed out the paved road is not the

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Colville Road. He stated he is aware of where three other roads ran through there. At Russ's suggestion, Raymond indicated he would contact Wes Thomas who is doing the road surveys. Raymond suggested, once the presumed location of the road is identified, maybe someone could fly over the route to check it out and take pictures or video.

Raymond mentioned that the US Forest Service rented some land from the County and artifacts were dug up when they were doing some work there. He noted that other people in the area have also found artifacts. He stated is he not aware of any old foundations or buildings left from the fort. Raymond advised that Steve Schroeder has remains from an old sawmill on his property that he hasn't even touched. Mr. Schroeder is trying to find out more information about the sawmill. Speculation was that it might have provided lumber to the fort. Russ suggested that he contact historian Shirley Dodson to see if she has any knowledge about it.

Jim Lapinski pointed out right now the main focus is to identify the location of the road as accurately as possible. He stated in the world of historic preservation, to get official designation and everything, local knowledge is an accepted resource in the absence of documents or historic evidence. He felt any further information that can be provided by people like Mr. Driggs and Mr. Hodde is very important.

When asked how he felt about recapturing the location of the old trail, John Hodde expressed a concern about property rights. He said he didn't think it is worth taking away somebody's property.

HPC members thanked Mr. Driggs and Mr. Hodde for sharing information.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the previous meeting of February 21, 2014 had been distributed to each member prior to the meeting. Terry Cripps moved to approve the minutes as written. Bruce Dietz seconded. Voice vote showed all in favor.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Continued discussion – status of chainsaw carving contest.

Jim reported that he contacted some individuals about the chainsaw carving contest, starting out with people who had been involved with the former Kettle Falls logging contest. From those contacts, Jim distributed a list of local human resources (copy on file). He indicated he will provide the list to Tony Harmon for his information. Jim advised if the idea becomes more serious, some of the individuals he contacted expressed some interest and indicated a willingness to advise.

Jim clarified that right now the idea is to have a chainsaw carving contest. He felt it is important to have all HPC members on board with this idea and not count on just a couple of people to do all the work. Russ asked if the contest could be held in the parking lot by the swimming pool during Rendezvous, which was believed to be the first weekend in August. Jim stated he will check with Tony and see what contacts he has been able to make before any proposal is made. He also pointed out the HPC does not have a budget to fund an event - a proposal would need to be made to the City Council. Some HPC members felt maybe the Chamber of Commerce could get involved as well.

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Terry Cripps moved to pursue the chainsaw carving contest. Bruce Dietz second. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion of this item was continued to future meetings.

NEW BUSINESS: There was no New Business.

REPORTS (continued)

- The Heritage Network (THN). Russ reported on the March 17th THN meeting. THN is currently exploring opportunities for funding to restore the historic Indian Agency in Chewelah. The next meeting will be held at either the Colville Library or the museum on the third Monday in April.
- Terry Cripps expressed an interest in “cryptic history” of the area. He stated he has heard some tales of mystery or legends from local people. He cited a story he was told about a ghost like figure that has appeared as a hitchhiker to some people driving at night on the Aladdin Road and then disappeared. Earlier in the meeting, Mr. Driggs shared a couple of mysteries that he recalled that occurred in the area. Terry felt these mysteries/legends are mainly for entertainment but it could help get people interested in local history.
- Bruce Dietz shared information about the new Inland Northwest Railroad Museum being established at Reardon. He felt it is very interesting what they are trying to do there recognizing the importance of preserving the railroad history of Eastern Washington and the Inland Northwest. He pointed out the importance of all aspects of transportation in bringing settlers and commerce to the territory.

ADJOURNMENT

As there was no further business, on a motion and a second the meeting was adjourned. Approximate time of adjournment: 11:20 a.m.