

City of Colville

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

May 17, 2013

10:00 a.m. – City Hall

MINUTES

The Colville Historic Preservation Commission met for a regular meeting on Friday, May 17, 2013, at City Hall. Chairman Russ Larsen called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. with a quorum present.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Terry Cripps, Alan Bedford, Russ Larsen, and Bruce Dietz. MEMBERS ABSENT: Avrum Baum and Tony Harmon. One vacancy exists. STAFF PRESENT: Jim Lapinski, Director of Building & Planning and Assistant Planner Melinda Lee. RECORDING SECRETARY: Susan Davis.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The minutes from the previous meeting of April 19, 2013 had been distributed to each member prior to the meeting. Russ Larsen noted a correction on Pg. 2, 2nd paragraph, end of line 7, add the word “at”. Alan Bedford moved and Bruce Dietz seconded the motion to approve the minutes as corrected. Voice vote showed all in favor.

OLD BUSINESS:

A. School Participation Update

Jim Lapinski questioned the status of school participation. As reported at the previous meeting, Russ Larsen explained that he talked with Paul Dumas and learned that Washington State History is required in order to graduate from the 8th grade. Russ advised that anyone is welcome to sit in on the class at the Junior High, which is taught by Linda Wolfe. Mr. Dumas requested that if HPC members want the kids to do something, please call ahead and bring information and flyers to show them what they could do. Melinda explained that the intent is to see if any of the kids are interested in helping out at the Rendezvous Booth. Terry Cripps expressed a willingness to follow up on this matter.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Review of an Application for Historic Plaque for the proposed “Hofstetter House”.

- **Anna & Sam McCrea, 407 E. Birch Avenue**

A completed application for an historic plaque by Anna & Sam McCrea at 407 E. Birch Avenue had been distributed to each member prior to the meeting (copy on file).

Based on the criteria for plaque award, the applicant identified historic names associated with the property, including John U. and Mary Hofstetter. It appears that John U. Hofstetter, a prominent figure in Colville’s history, purchased the property and had the house built.

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Melinda advised that she spoke with Janet Thomas, Stevens County Historical Society, about the property. Janet recommended calling it the "Hofstetter House". Based on old photos, circa 1940's, Janet also indicated to Melinda that the house has not been significantly altered.

Discussion followed relative to whether there is any evidence that the Hofstetters lived in the house. Alan Bedford noted that the sidewalk in front of the house used to bear the names and handprints of the Hofstetters. Melinda noted that some of the file information indicates that W.F. Hooker, one of town's early developers, purchased the property and premises from Mr. Hofstetter and then resided there. Alan suggested that the name of the house include both names – Hofstetter/Hooker. In discussion which followed Melinda explained that it appears the Hofstetters lived in four different houses in town. There was some concern about the possibility of applying this to multiple houses. Jim Lapinski pointed out that evidence of occupancy is needed to maintain credibility and suggested that it may be appropriate to do more research if time is not an issue.

In conclusion, it was a consensus to have staff do further research on the property.

REPORTS

Russ Larsen asked if any progress had been made on getting the Chamber to reconsider housing The Heritage Network (THN) historic booth at their new office. Melinda reported that Avrum Bum and Tony Harmon were unsuccessful in that regard. It was suggested that if THN is able to reduce the size of the booth, there might be another opportunity to talk to the Chamber.

Melinda reported that by special request, in May the Silverado Express started publishing the actual plaque awards presented over the past few years. She noted once we get caught up with the awards, she will start submitting historic articles again for publication.

Russ questioned whether any public interest in the plaque program or membership on the HPC has been generated from the articles in the Silverado Express. Melinda offered to mention the HPC vacancy to the Silverado Express. She was aware the City Clerk's office published an advertisement in the Statesman Examiner for vacancies on various City committees and boards.

Jim reported that it appears that the Rendezvous Committee will be able to use some Hotel/Motel tax money.

Russ reported The Heritage Network will meet next Monday. Melinda added that the May 20th meeting will be at 9:30 a.m. at the Chewelah City Hall.

ADJOURNMENT

As there was no further business, Alan Bedford moved and Bruce Dietz seconded to adjourn. There were no objections and the meeting adjourned at approximately 10:40 a.m.