

City of Colville

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

June 21, 2013

10:00 a.m. – City Hall

MINUTES

The Colville Historic Preservation Commission met for a regular meeting on Friday, June 21, 2013, at City Hall. Chairman Russ Larsen called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. without a quorum present.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Russ Larsen, Avrum Baum, and Alan Bedford. MEMBERS ABSENT: Bruce Dietz, Terry Cripps, 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 MEETING

The minutes from the previous meeting of May 17, 2013 had been distributed to each member prior to the meeting. Due to the lack of a quorum, approval of the minutes was deferred to the next regular meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

A. Update on Rendezvous Booth.

Melinda Lee presented an update on the Rendezvous booth. She advised that Geno Ludwig and Don McLaughlin will be working together on presentations regarding the military presence in the area. Joe Barreca has indicated a willingness to do the geology presentation again. No other events are planned. . As in the past, public information will be available at the booth including the tour brochure. Melinda advised that Laurie Engell is coordinating the encampment area. Melinda will work with Laurie on the schedule for the shared space. Based on the few tours done in past events, it was decided to forego the van rental this year. Self-guided tours will still be available at the booth.

Jim Lapinski had no recent update from the Rendezvous Committee. Due to the absence of Terry Cripps, there was no report available regarding possible school participation at the booth.

B. Update on Plaque Application for 407 E. Birch Avenue (McCrea).

At a previous meeting there was a question about whether the house at 407 E. Birch Avenue was actually there when Mr. Hooker bought the property. Melinda summarized the information on the house that she was able to glean from documents on file. She found that when Mr. Hofstetter sold the house to Mr. Hooker there is documentation that specifically states “homestead” which indicates that the house was there. Melinda stated that Don Birch advised that his grandfather once owned and lived in the house and the Hofstetter family handprints were visible in the paint on the porch and were removed when the porch was replaced.

Since it has been confirmed that the Hofstetters lived in the house, Melinda recommended that it be called the “Hofstetter House”. In addition to being at least 50 years old, she felt the application meets at least one of the other criteria for a plaque.

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Alan Bedford wondered how many houses the Hofstetter's lived in and asked if this house should be referenced by a number. He questioned what the ground rules are or would be for similar situations where applications might be made for multiple houses. He felt that a sensible line needs to be drawn between recognizing proper places that have historic significance and being so selective that no one gets a plaque. Melinda stated according to Janet Thomas the Hofstetters lived in four different houses. Two of the houses still exist – this one which is the 2nd house the Hofstetters lived in and one at the corner of 1st & Cedar Street. Al asked if the house at 1st & Cedar has qualities that supersede what this one has. Melinda offered to do more research for presentation at the next meeting. There was discussion about the architectural style of the home and if it was significant to the era. It was noted that it is a well-kept house.

Jim advised that the Department of Interior has specific rules and standards for historic preservation. He felt in some instances the only option may be to deny applications until you get to the one you want to recognize. He felt there should be an awareness of the Department of Interior rules and standards noting there will be people who might still want to apply for a National or State plaque.

Russ expressed the opinion that this house has been well researched. He noted due to the lack of a quorum a decision on the application would need to be deferred to the next meeting. At that time any additional information from staff can be presented.

Jim advised that he has learned that the City's Park & Recreation office was moved to Colville from old Kettle Falls during the construction of Grand Coulee Dam. He was uncertain whether the building is historically significant but stated the City is currently considering some maintenance issues. The City Council has authorized a feasibility study to determine what should be done with the building for the long term. Recognizing that it is quite old, Russ asked if the City would be eligible for any money if the building was issued a plaque. It was discussed that we should possibly consider other houses/buildings that were relocated from the Columbia River due to the Coulee Dam project.

Avrum expressed the opinion that the Park & Recreation office is part of the park environment and it seems short sighted not to figure out a way to do something with it vs. spending money for a report. In response to a question, Jim advised that this matter will be a budgetary decision and will be discussed by the City Council at an open public meeting.

NEW BUSINESS: There was no New Business to be presented.

REPORTS

A. Silverado Express.

Melinda advised that Don Birch said that the articles that HPC contributed about the past didn't seem to go over very well. For now, he asked that HPC just submit information pertaining to plaque recipients.

B. Heritage Network.

Melinda indicated that she had no report on the last Heritage Network meeting as she was unable to attend.

Russ reported at its last meeting the Fair Board decided to take the Heritage Network booth down to the fairgrounds and put it in the green building. He was concerned that it would not get much exposure there

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because it would only be seen during fair time. Melinda indicated that she heard they were going to incorporate it in the quilt display. Russ requested an update from Avrum regarding his effort to get the Chamber Office to display the booth. Avrum stated he spoke with Debbie and she felt it was too big. After he suggested that it be cut down some for display purposes, Debbie indicated she would give it more thought. Avrum felt that the Chamber Board should be approached about displaying the booth and have the Board make that decision. Russ asked if someone who could represent the City could get the request to the Chamber Board.

Melinda reported that Janet Thomas picked up an application for the historic art program for the Leno Prestini art collection. At this time a completed application has not been submitted.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:30 a.m.