

City of Colville

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

July 19, 2013

10:00 a.m. – City Hall

MINUTES

The Colville Historic Preservation Commission met for a regular meeting on Friday, July 19, 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, Bruce Dietz, Avrum Baum, and Terry Cripps (arrived after roll call). MEMBERS ABSENT: Alan Bedford 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 meetings of May 17, 2013 and June 21, 2013 had been distributed to each member prior to the meeting. A motion was made and seconded to approve the May 17, 2013 minutes as written. Motion passed. A motion was made and seconded to approve the June 21, 2013 minutes as written. Motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS:

A. Continued discussion and possible approval of the McRae local plaque application.

Discussion was continued from the previous meeting regarding the possible approval of the McRae local plaque application. Melinda Lee reported that the McRae house was really the first house the Hofstetters lived in after the city was incorporated. The Hofstetters then moved to the house on the SW corner of 1st & Cedar Streets, the current home of Roy Barton. Larsen pointed out that their original home, which is often seen in old photos, was north of the Hofstetter Brewery, on the NW corner of Birch & Main Streets. Melinda suggested the McRae house could be referred to as the Hofstetter's second house and then mention the link to their first house in the tour brochure.

Terry Cripps moved and Bruce Dietz seconded the motion to approve the McRae local plaque application and call it the Hofstetter's second home and include an explanation in the tour brochure that their first house was near the brewery at the NW corner of Birch & Main Streets prior to the City's incorporation. Motion passed.

B. Rendezvous Booth

Schedule – At this time, Melinda reported that she was unable to get confirmation from Tony Harmon for use of his canopy for the booth. There are no guests scheduled or displays planned this year. As an option, she explained that Jim Lapinski suggested handing out HPC information at the Chamber of Commerce booth. The Chamber has extended an invitation to people to come and spend time at their booth and hand out brochures/booklets on behalf of their organization. Melinda confirmed with the Chamber that there is room available.

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Following brief discussion, it was a consensus to try to handout information at the Chamber booth. Melinda offered to provide public information handouts regarding the HPC member vacancy, local historic plaque applications, and brochures/booklets. Bruce Dietz expressed a willingness to take the Friday afternoon shift. Jim Lapinski offered to spend time in the booth on Saturday and Russ Larsen requested a 9am-12pm time slot on Sunday. Melinda will follow up with the Chamber regarding the HPC schedule.

Melinda reported that the encampment area will feature lots of events. Geno Ludwig and Don McLaughlin will be presenting a lecture about the Walla Walla to Ft. Colville Military Road on Saturday, from 10am-12pm.

Avrum Baum questioned whether The Heritage Network display booth will be set up at Rendezvous. Melinda stated that it will not be displayed at Rendezvous because of security reasons but it will be at the fair. Russ advised that at a recent Fair Board meeting it was decided that fruit from local orchards would be given out to the public similar to what was done at the National Historic Preservation Conference. He indicated that Melinda could contact Beth Philpott for more information. Melinda advised that HPC can set up an information area at the fair again this year and provide handout information.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Application for Historic Art Recognition for the Leno Prestini Art Collection.

An application for historic art recognition for the Leno Prestini art collection had been distributed to the members prior to the meeting (copy on file). Russ pointed out the Leno Prestini Art Collection is up at the museum. He added that Mr. Prestini held art shows here in City Hall and although it appears that he didn't sell his art - art was his hobby. Terry Cripps asked if there is a biography of Mr. Prestini available and Russ thought that the museum has one to go with his art work. Melinda suggested developing and issuing a certificate of recognition.

Terry Cripps moved that HPC approve the application for historic art recognition for the Leno Prestini art collection. The motion was seconded and voice vote showed all in favor.

B. 2014 Budget Request for HPC.

In a letter to HPC Chairman Russ Larsen the City Clerk asked for the 2014 HPC budget request by Aug. 30th (attached hereto and made a part of these minutes). Jim explained that budget requests are considered by the City Council through the annual budget process. Staff requested input from HPC members as to identifying 2014 needs. Melinda advised that HPC has not used any of the \$600 appropriated for 2013. Unexpended funds are not carried over from year to year. Melinda suggested one option would be to print new brochures prior to the end of the year. She noted that extra blank plaques are on hand.

Bruce noted the absence of Alan Bedford and Tony Harmon relative to the budget discussion. He recognized that there could be some things like the historic makers that Tony suggested in the past that could incur some expense. Bruce suggested there may be some federal funds that could be accessed for historic preservation. It was a consensus to continue discussion to the next meeting and have staff develop some proposed figures for consideration.

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REPORTS

Melinda reported on the last meeting of The Heritage Network (THN). She noted work continues on oral histories for the Park Service. Another project is the history of the Walla Walla to Ft. Colville Military Road and efforts to make it a tourist destination area. The next THN meeting will be at the Chewelah Museum – meetings are held on the 3rd Monday of each month at 9:30 am. Melinda reported that the Chewelah Museum has reopened this year. The cabin in Chewelah is still being brought up to code prior to opening it up to the public.

Russ reported that the Chamber Board does not meet during the summer so there is no one to talk to about setting up the display booth at the Chamber office. Melinda reported that it appeared at the last THN meeting that somebody else is willing to display the booth after the fair. She offered to check on that further.

Terry Cripps reported that he found some of the grave markers at the Calvary Cemetery are in a state of disrepair, are broken, or have been piled up. He questioned whether there is a way we could put up a marker to acknowledge some of the people whose markers have been broken or displaced. It was Russ Larsen's understanding that the genealogy society may take care of grave markers. Melinda pointed out that all of the local cemeteries are located outside the city limits.

Bruce brought up discussion from the previous meeting about the Parks & Recreation building. He asked if staff had any additional information to present. Jim confirmed that it is not the only known relocated building. The City Council is considering maintenance issues and future disposition. A facility feasibility study has been authorized. No decisions have been made at this time.

Discussion followed relative to potential historical value of the building, which is well over 50 years old. The members felt that consideration should be given to saving the building. Avrum felt that HPC should nominate the building for a local plaque award and then include a budget request at some time for funds to rehabilitate it as a city-owned property. Staff reported that it appears the federal tax incentive program will be eliminated completely. Melinda suggested that maybe this building could be saved and used for the display of historical elements of the community, including local art work and recognition of local historic properties and then construct a new Parks & Recreation building. Terry expressed the feeling that the building is part of the park, it has been there for a long time, and there may be a potential use that could help save it. The building could help attract visitors by showing the history of the park and the area. Bruce felt it is worth investigating noting the building has some historical value tied to the legacy of the Grand Coulee Dam and its tremendous impact on this valley.

Avrum moved that HPC request the City to submit an application for a historic plaque for the Parks & Recreation Building. Terry Cripps seconded. Jim pointed out the history of the building will need to be researched, which could be done by staff. He thought the application would need to be signed by the Mayor. Voice vote showed all in favor.

ADJOURNMENT

As there was no further business, on a motion and a second the meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:15 a.m.