

City of Colville

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

October 21, 2011

10:00 a.m. – City Hall

MINUTES

The Colville Historic Preservation Commission met for a regular meeting on Friday, October 21, 2011, at City Hall. Chairman Russ Larsen called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. with a quorum present.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Russ Larsen, Alan Bedford, Bruce Dietz, Avrum Baum, and Janet Thomas. MEMBERS ABSENT: Tony Harmon and Brenda Buckner. STAFF PRESENT: Assistant Planner Melinda Lee. OTHERS PRESENT: Councilmember Pearl Mance. RECORDING SECRETARY: Susan Davis.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the previous meeting of August 19, 2011 had been distributed to each member prior to the meeting. Russ Larsen advised that in the past he had been told by members of the commission that motions are not necessary to approve the minutes or adjourn the meeting. Following discussion, Alan Bedford moved and Bruce Dietz seconded the motion to consider motions for these actions. The motion failed. Russ Larsen asked that the words “on a motion and a second” under Adjournment be stricken from the minutes. Janet Thomas stated that she did not recall making the statement that was attributed to her on Pg. 2, in line 4, paragraph 4, under New Business. She stated she has always felt applicants should fill out their own applications. The minutes were approved as corrected.

At this time, Chairman Larsen added public comments to the agenda and reordered the items.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Pearl Mance explained that she had been a member of a former committee that wanted to gather oral histories and present them at Rendezvous as part of the HPC booth. She was concerned about whether that idea would be able to proceed. Janet announced the Historical Society has carried on by doing some interviews, just not on the Rendezvous stage. Recently interviews with people who served at the radar station were recorded and will be made into a video. Other videos and DVDs have been produced and are available. Melinda Lee suggested that the HPC could continue to play the videos at the Rendezvous booth, schedule lectures, and try to advertise these events more.

Avrum Baum asked if there are other ways to promote history - not just at Rendezvous. He suggested that perhaps interviews could be played on the local radio station in 15-minute increments or a spot identifying something that happened “50 Years Ago Today”. It was noted that the “Silverado Express” continues to have a historical emphasis and we should work with them to run articles for HPC.

OLD BUSINESS:

A. Update Tour Booklet.

Melinda distributed copies of the new tour booklet and noted some corrections that will need to be made prior to the next printing (copy on file). She explained that she only ordered a limited number of 100 at a

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a cost of \$327. After distributing new booklets locally, Melinda only has 33 left. She commented that it was recommended recently at a Heritage Network meeting that distribution be expanded beyond our borders. Pending approval of the 2012 budget, it was felt that further discussion regarding reprinting and distribution of the tour booklet could be deferred to a future meeting.

Melinda stated she did not have the tri-fold brochure reprinted due to the cost and questioned whether the committee wanted to continue doing brochures. The tri-fold brochure would need to be updated prior to reprinting.

Janet asked if there are any historic plaque applications pending. It was noted that Sue Poe had indicated an interest in applying for a plaque for her building but has not yet submitted the paperwork. Janet offered to contact Ms. Poe regarding the status of her application before the booklet is reprinted.

NEW BUSINESS

A. 2012 Goals.

As previously requested, Melinda distributed suggested 2012 goals to each member prior to the meeting for review and discussion (copy on file). Ms. Lee explained that she compiled the goals from HPC discussions over the past year.

Janet suggested that Goal #2) be changed to read “Cooperate with merchants that have plaques with historic markers in the following areas:” She felt the Commission could assist with some of the details listed but should not be responsible for everything. Alan Bedford also expressed the desire to see merchants participate in the process if they want a historic marker.

Janet asked if there is any need to have a goal about Rendezvous. Al suggested adding “Continue efforts to work with Rendezvous and involve the tribal leaders.”

Avrum asked if there is anything that can be done if a property listed in the tour booklet lapses into a state of disrepair or needs attention. Melinda advised that staff sends a notice to the property owner requesting abatement and if they do not respond satisfactorily they could be taken off the program. It was recognized that sometimes a lack of funds prevents property owners from making necessary repairs. Melinda pointed out it is really difficult to find grant funds for bricks & mortar projects for private property. She brought up the idea someone had in Harrington where they recruited volunteers to help scrub, paint, and clean up a historic property. The property owner supplied lunch to the volunteers and it appeared the work party was successful. Melinda suggested maybe something like that could be encouraged here.

B. Downtown Walking Tour with Photographs.

Melinda shared information regarding a walking tour she recently took in Metaline Falls during their 100-year celebration. They had old photos and narratives about the history of the buildings displayed in the windows so it didn't matter if the business was open or closed. She suggested possibly encouraging our downtown merchants to put old photographs in their windows so people could see what the buildings looked like in the past. It was recognized that a few buildings in Colville have framed history kiosks on display which were done by a group of WSU students some years ago.

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Melinda reported at a recent meeting of the Heritage Network there was discussion about making contact with tour bus agencies to let them know that we are here and to promote our town on a historic basis. The thought being the buses could come in and park so the tourists could do a downtown tour and shop. Janet reported that tour buses come to the museum but suggested maybe they should be encouraged to drive around town more while they are here.

Further discussion followed relative to the distribution of local literature. Janet reported that she is putting a list together of places (i.e., hotels, motels, B&Bs, dude ranches, etc.), to send Stevens County Historical Society brochures to in the spring. It was suggested that distribution should also include other places that attract people such as equipment and boat rentals. Melinda questioned whether it would be better for HPC to do a brochure for that type of contact.

REPORTS

Relative to promotion, Bruce Dietz reported that China Bend is trying to promote its B&B. He also pointed out the voyagers, representing part of the David Thompson crew, are located in Chewelah. They have indicated a willingness to bring their group to schools, etc., as an educational opportunity.

Recognizing the HPC budget could be limited, Pearl Mance encouraged the HPC to apply for lodging tax money for reprinting the tour booklet or brochure if the idea is to promote tourism and recreation.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Larsen adjourned the meeting at approximately 11:10 a.m.