

City of Colville

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

December 18, 2015

10:00 a.m. – City Hall

MINUTES

The Colville Historic Preservation Commission met for a regular meeting on Friday, December 18, 2015, in the Conference Room at City Hall. Chairman Russ Larsen called the meeting to order at approximately 10:00 a.m. with a quorum present.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Russ Larsen, Avrum Baum, Muriel Meyer. CJ Wolfe arrived after roll call. MEMBERS ABSENT: Tony Harmon. Two vacancies exist. STAFF PRESENT: City Planner RJ Keetch and Building Official/Inspector Dave Harper. GUEST: Janet Thomas. RECORDING SECRETARY: Susan Davis.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the previous meeting of October 16, 2015 had been distributed to each member prior to the meeting. Muriel Meyer moved and Avrum Baum seconded the motion to approve the minutes as written. Voice vote showed all in favor.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Continued discussion – ADA ramp.

RJ Keetch briefly reviewed the background information on the proposed ADA ramp at City Hall. He stated that he spoke with the Washington State Historical Society representative at the recent Heritage Capital Projects grant meeting about the proposal. She recommended passing on the concepts to the Washington State Department of Archaeology & Historic Preservation (DAHP) for comment. DAHP did not feel that any of the options would adversely impact the building. Option 1 was recommended with either brick or concrete because both materials are compatible with the building. DAHP suggested staying away from the railing in Option 2 because there is more visual distraction.

Discussion followed regarding the pros and cons of replacing the ramp at the rear of the building. Building Official Dave Harper recapped the constraints to building a new ramp in this location as outlined in the October 16, 2015 HPC minutes.

Janet Thomas expressed support for preserving existing historical buildings. She explained that the construction of the Library, Courthouse, City Hall, and Post Office, at the intersection of Oak Street & Astor Avenue made Colville the first known community in the state to develop a “Civic Center”. She noted that in the past the HPC wanted to try to get national recognition for the Civic Center and former Assistant Planner Melinda Lee had been working on an application. It was suggested there may be more funding opportunities for City Hall if state and national recognition could be achieved. Staff will research the status of the application.

Avrum Baum brought up a draft Capital Project budget request for City Hall that RJ Keetch had prepared identifying upgrades to the City Hall/Police Station/Park, including the ADA ramp. It was recognized that the building needs a lot of work. Dave Harper pointed out the Police Station needs to be remodeled to improve its

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functionality. Avrum suggested there may be an opportunity to apply for heritage capital projects funds to do more work if the City could hold off on the ramp to further investigate an overall facility plan.

Muriel Meyer moved to recommend that the City Council hold off on the ADA ramp for the City Hall until further investigation of an overall capital facilities plan is reviewed and implemented to include the ADA ramp, which would perhaps make it more historically accurate and get a bigger bang for your buck. Avrum Baum seconded. Voice vote showed all in favor.

It was felt that once a capital facilities plan for City Hall is developed that the HPC could review it as part of the process.

### NEW BUSINESS

#### A. Review and discussion – updated walking tour pamphlet.

Muriel Meyer explained that she has been working on updating the historic tour booklet for reprinting. She referenced proposed ideas for a new cover page, which had been distributed to each member prior to the meeting. Muriel indicated she had been having some problems with formatting. In the discussion which followed Avrum Baum suggested applying for Vinson funds to create a larger publication, i.e., 8 ½ x 11, or a DVD. He offered to get an application for Vinson funds. It was felt that if this project is eligible for funding it probably would not be available until next year.

Staff confirmed that the supply of the tour booklets is low and that there are some 2015 funds that could be used to print more. The booklets are distributed to the Chamber, Museum, and motels to give out. Following discussion, it was felt that it would be prudent to reprint some booklets this year with the funds available and continue to explore revamping the booklet in the future.

Avrum Baum moved to publish more of the existing self-guided tour booklets up to the available 2015 budget funds. Muriel Meyer seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

### REPORTS

RJ Keetch presented a report on the heritage capital projects grant workshop that was recently held in Colville. He referenced a list of grant awards to other cities. Janet indicated that the application process is difficult but she felt staff is capable of doing it. She felt it is worth the effort to apply for funding for City Hall. Other potential projects were suggested including the following: Library, 4-corners (Civic Center); a Colville 2025 Project coinciding with the 200 year anniversary of the establishment of Fort Colville as a trading post; Keller House; Heritage Court/Astor Avenue pedestrian corridor; and interpretive signage for the Hatchery and Colville Mountain.

Janet Thomas expressed the feeling that the thing that has to happen is Colville has to recognize its historical significance as a community. RJ Keetch noted that if the City goes through the process to become a Certified Local Government (CLG) there may be a planning grant available to help create such a vision and communicate and engage the public in a plan.

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Janet reported that The Heritage Network has been collecting a list of “founded on firsts” such as the grist mill in the area, etc. She stated the THN tries to break down barriers and borders between towns because we all have a common history and a deep history. An idea was proposed to come up with a “Colville District – 2025” plan to brand the area. Cities and towns could do their own things but collectively buy in to the idea. Future grants could be applied for to enhance and preserve history within the District. HPC members were encouraged to invite others in and talk to people in the community for input.

In conclusion, RJ stated that he will continue to focus on City Hall right now.

ADJOURNMENT

As there was no further business, Muriel Meyer moved and ~~RJ Keetch~~ Avrum Baum (8/19/2016) seconded the motion to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:10 a.m.