

## HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

November 19, 2009

10:00 a.m. – City Hall

### MINUTES

The Colville Historic Preservation Committee met for a regular meeting on Thursday, November 19, 2009, at City Hall. Chairman Craig Figley called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. with a quorum present.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Russ Larsen, Tracy Ferrell, Alan Bedford, Janet Thomas, and Craig Figley. MEMBERS ABSENT: Two vacancies exist. STAFF PRESENT: Assistant Planner Melinda Lee. OTHERS PRESENT: Councilmember Ed Gray. RECORDING SECRETARY: Susan Davis.

### MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the previous meeting of October 15, 2009 had been distributed to each member prior to the meeting. Russ Larsen moved and Alan Bedford seconded the motion to approve the minutes as written. Motion passed. Tracy Ferrell abstained.

### OLD BUSINESS

#### A. Continued discussion on the Elk's Lodge Plaque Application.

Melinda Lee reported that Tim Gray, on behalf of Dominion Meadows, expressed concerns about future restrictions at the golf course if the old brickyard site is given historic recognition and possible impact from random foot traffic. Melinda felt if for some reason the property owner did something in the future that would take away the site's historic significance; the plaque could be taken away. Tim had indicated he would continue to try get a recommendation from the Dominion Meadows members as soon as possible. He felt they would probably allow people to visit the site on a guided tour if they check in at the pro shop first. If approved, Janet Thomas and Alan Bedford suggested that a note could be included in the HPC brochure asking people to get permission from the pro shop prior to visiting the site.

Dr. Ed Gray reminded everyone that the ownership of that property is complex. He felt there could be a problem if the site attracts visitors at the golf course during busy summer days. He suggested a better solution would be for the Elks to put up their own memorial.

Brief discussion followed regarding public access to the proposed historic site. Tracy Ferrell suggested if the foot traffic becomes a problem in the future, a plaque could be installed at the lodge. Janet and Craig agreed pointing out that there really are no structures to see on the "site".

Melinda felt that since there are two entities involved in the property, the committee needs to make sure that both of them support the plaque application. She advised that it appears only one local signature on behalf of the Elks would be needed on the application.

Discussion on the Elks Lodge application was continued to the next meeting.

## HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

November 19, 2009

Page 2

### B. Publication of Articles regarding Plaque Recipients.

Melinda Lee advised that an article was expected in this week's newspaper; but it did not appear. In the past, information and photos have been provided to Sophia Aldous for articles.

Craig Figley reported that he contacted Steve Wisner to reschedule the plaque award for the Alpine Theater. Mr. Wisner indicated that he is available anytime.

### C. Status of CLG Process.

Melinda advised that the City will not be pursuing Certified Local Government (CLG) approval at this time. At the previous meeting, it was a consensus of the committee to delay the task of including bylaws in the CLG ordinance. CLG approval from the State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation could be pursued in the future if desired.

Melinda explained that the current ordinance allows the HPC to review projects and offer advice and encouragement. She indicated that although the C-2 (Central Business) District has been recommended as a historic district, it has not yet been formally adopted.

In the discussion which followed it was a consensus to try to move forward with the process. It was recognized that timely reviews could require the committee to meet at the call of business. Alan suggested a minimum of three members could be sufficient to review and approve project proposals. Melinda offered to present a status report at a future meeting for more discussion and a decision on how to proceed.

Craig suggested that consideration be given to offering an incentive for any new design or re-design in the downtown district that follows the HPC's guidelines. For example, an article in the paper to advertise what they did and applaud their efforts, or an interview conducted to generate interest in the project.

Janet expressed the feeling that if the HPC is going to do the district that it be done with a certain amount of flair. It was recognized that a notice to building owners in advance would be appropriate to let them know that they have been included in a historic district and get their support. Others suggested a ribbon cutting ceremony and banners to advertise the district. It was felt that articles in the "Silverado" newspaper about the City's historic preservation efforts, including the historic district, plaque program, and advertising committee openings could be very helpful. Tracy indicated a willingness to contact the editor, Don Birch, about future articles.

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

## REPORTS

### A. Advertising for Open Positions.

Melinda advised that the City Clerk's office will be advertising openings on all of the City's boards and commissions in the newspaper and on the website. She felt using other resources such as the "Silverado" could also be helpful for advertising vacancies.

## HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

November 19, 2009

Page 3

### B. Order for Plaques.

Melinda reported that she ordered nine blank plaques with unexpended funds from the 2009 budget, which includes future printing. A plaque was ordered for the Acorn Saloon.

Tracy Ferrell questioned what could be done about historic properties that are falling into a state of disrepair. She stated the property on the southwest corner of Maple & 5<sup>th</sup> needs some attention. Melinda advised that she sends out annual letters reminding property owners with historic plaques to keep their property maintained and offered to follow up on Tracy's inquiry.

Janet Thomas reported that the Annual Christmas Tour of the Keller House and museum is scheduled for December 4-6. She invited everyone to attend and encouraged them to bring others along to the event.

Discussion regarding a possible "Ghost Walk" at historic sites indicated that property owners needed to be contacted to gauge their interest before proceeding.

### ADJOURNMENT

As there was no further business, Alan Bedford moved and the motion was seconded to adjourn. Voice vote showed all in favor. Time of adjournment 11:10 a.m.