

City of Colville

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

December 17, 2009

10:00 a.m. – City Hall

MINUTES

The Colville Historic Preservation Committee met for a regular meeting on Thursday, December 17, 2009, at City Hall. Chairman Craig Figley called the meeting to order at 10:08 a.m. with a quorum present.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Craig Figley, Russ Larsen, Janet Thomas, and Alan Bedford. MEMBERS ABSENT: Tracy Ferrell. Two vacancies exist. STAFF PRESENT: Planning Director Jim Lapinski. OTHERS PRESENT: Councilmember Ed Gray. RECORDING SECRETARY: Susan Davis.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the previous meeting of November 19, 2009 had been distributed to each member prior to the meeting. Alan Bedford moved and Russ Larsen seconded the motion to approve the minutes as written. Voice vote showed all in favor.

Councilmember Ed Gray indicated his term on the Council expires at the end of the year. As a result, he will no longer be attending HPC meetings. Regarding the Elks historic plaque application, he reported it is possible that the Elks Lodge itself is historic and pointed out a plaque on the west end of the building which designates it to the general public in perpetuity. Dr. Gray suggested that a historic plaque could be installed on the building referring visitors to the brickyard site without interfering with golf activities. Craig Figley noted that the HPC discussed that alternative briefly at the previous meeting, recognizing that there are no actual ruins to view at the site.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Condition of Property at 459 N. Maple Street.

Based on previous discussion, Chairman Figley stated that it appears the property at 459 N. Maple Street is somewhat rundown and in need of maintenance. It was his understanding that Melinda Lee planned to notify the property owner of the condition and request abatement. Jim Lapinski explained that the Building & Planning Department can enforce code violations through the Colville Municipal Code. He felt that taking a plaque away or issuing a citation should be a last resort.

Alan Bedford suggested that from now on the plaques be stamped on the back with “Property of the City of Colville”. The other members expressed support for this idea but felt further research should be done to verify ownership before proceeding.

At this time, Janet Thomas suggested the members visit the site and view its condition. At that time, it might be appropriate to request Melinda to send a second letter to the property owner indicating something like, “We sent out our general letter to all property owners with plaques and have specifically noticed that the condition of your property has deteriorated since the award of the plaque. Is there anything we can do to help you?”

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In case a property owner feels he/she is being targeted, Alan suggested that a record be kept of all correspondence that is sent out to establish consistency and provide future guidance. Consequently, Janet suggested it might be in order to send a letter to the property owner about the paint on the front of the old Opera House building on W. 1st Avenue.

Discussion on the property at 459 N. Maple Street was continued pending a report from Melinda Lee.

B. Historic Districts; Design Review.

Jim explained it appeared in the past that the committee identified and approved the boundaries of a historic district. However, a recommendation for adoption has not been forwarded to the City Council. Janet recalled that the committee was nervous about how the property owners in the proposed district would react to the designation. Alan indicated he has spoken with the Chamber of Commerce, Rotary Club, and others about the proposed boundaries and received positive feedback. Jim also related positive responses from the public.

Alan Bedford moved and Russ Larsen seconded the motion to submit the proposed historic district to the City Council and recommend adoption. Jim indicated that he could prepare the necessary documents to submit to the Council. Motion carried unanimously.

Brief discussion followed relative to proposing other historic districts. Jim noted there are some residential districts that would appear to lend themselves to historic designation in the future. Janet supported the idea and identified the Crestview Addition as a possible district.

Discussion followed regarding the design review process, which provides for review and approval of proposed changes to historic properties before a building permit can be issued. The process allows the HPC to review proposals and provide guidance to protect historic properties and areas. Janet noted that in the past the HPC developed a decision tree to guide the review process. It was pointed out that the designation of a historic district does not restrict use of the property or require property owners to make improvements to their property.

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

REPORTS

Craig Figley reported that he and Melinda interviewed Trudy Lundy for a vacant position on the committee. Based on her background and interests, it was felt that she was a good candidate for the position and should be recommended to the Mayor for appointment.

Janet Thomas moved and Alan Bedford seconded the motion to recommend Trudy Lundy for appointment to the HPC. Voice vote showed all in favor.

ADJOURNMENT

As there was no further business, Alan Bedford moved and Janet Thomas seconded the motion to adjourn. There were no objections and the meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:15 a.m.