

IDAHO FALLS HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
Regular Meeting, November 6, 2014
Noon, Annex Conference Room

Attending: Julie Williams, Christina Olson, Krisi Staten, Kim Smith, Renee Magee, Brent McLane, and Debra Petty.
Guests: Lance Johnson, and Tom Nance.

Call to Order at 12:05.

Introductions: Tom Nance recently moved to the area from Butte, Montana, to work as a mechanical engineer for the INL. He became involved in historic preservation while living in Butte. He has applied for a position on the commission. Lance Johnson, Idaho Falls Fire Department, is interested in establishing a museum at Station 1 and will discuss further with the commission.

Approval of Minutes: Moved by Smith to approved the minutes of November 6, 2014, as written. Seconded by Staten and passed.

National Trust Conference: Williams said the location for the conference was fantastic. Having the hotels on one side of the river and the conference venues on the other created a challenge. Magee said the most memorable session was about raising public awareness for historic preservation. A woman from Buffalo made “heart bombs”. They were valentines of simple construction which she placed on historic buildings of significance on Valentine’s Day. She said another idea for raising public awareness for historic preservation is being done on a home near Savannah owned by the National Parks Service. The original interior is being recreated digitally and will be displayed on large monitors at the visitor’s center for public viewing. Magee shared details of several other sessions she attended. Olson said most of her sessions were GIS-based. Historic data can be combined with economic and property data to identify areas for development and investment opportunities. Williams said the data can also be used to identify the value of historic preservation.

Brochure – Graham Whipple: Mortimer and Whipple are combining efforts to create a walking tour brochure of the Eagle Rock area. Mortimer said Cheryl Cox, historian and former commissioner, has provided a significant amount of information for their use.

Work Program: Williams said she, Olson, Mitro, and Magee will continue to work on the Mid Century reconnaissance survey.

Roundtable Discussion: Captain Lance Johnson, Idaho Falls Fire Department, said he would like to turn Fire Station 1 into a museum. Groundbreaking for the new fire station will be in the spring. There would be very little investment in establishing a museum in the equipment bays. His greatest competition is the city’s need to reclaim the space for office use. His goal is to have everything in place so it doesn’t become a lost opportunity. The firehouse is one of very few nationwide that still has the original fire pole and the opportunity to have two antique fire engines on display which is a very rare occurrence. The museum would be free to the public, but donations would be accepted. Johnson is hoping to pitch his idea to city council during their regular meeting in January. He would like as many to attend as possible. He will contact the Commission once he knows when he will go before the Council. After he has a timeline, Williams will draft a letter of support and present it to the commission for formal approval.

Magee and Smith met with Krysten Bullock, Post Register, who is incorporating a history of an historic property in the real estate section on an ongoing basis. Magee approached Stephanie Rose about covering her home, but she was reluctant. Because it can be a home or business, Williams suggested Johnson Brothers. They have a long history in the community. Tom Nance offered to have his home at 136th 12th Street, one of the Poulsen family homes, highlighted. He is closing on the property in the next week. Magee thought Rose may be willing to share a number of her histories published in the *Crow Creek Connection*. She said they have a couple of weeks to work on the piece.

Magee handed out a list of Sanborn Map files stored on the warehouse drive at the city. Staff can access the files for Commission members. She told Williams it is possible the University of Utah has them in color, but she does not know if they are available online. Mortimer will be in Boise and was encouraged by members to find out if the State Archives have the maps in color and if they have been digitized for easy access.

Magee listened to the webinar regarding the history of windows. A good bit of wisdom shared was to live in your home one year before making any permanent changes. She said window configurations were impacted by changes in architecture and the cost of glass. She has purchased a publication by Gordon Bach, "Styles of Windows."

Mortimer asked about the roundtable item from last month concerning Magee's resignation from the board of Preservation Idaho. Magee said she is having difficulty attending board meetings and thought someone from the Commission might like to serve. It doesn't require travel to Boise. She joins in via phone. The group is well organized and manage several projects at once. She will make her final decision in February.

The meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Debra Petty, Recording Secretary