

# IDAHO FALLS HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

July 7, 2011

Noon

City Annex Building Conference Room  
680 Park Avenue

Attending: Graham Whipple, Chair; Nancy Boland; Cheryl Cox; Roxane Mitro; Hereschell Mynarcik; Stephanie Rose; members. Renee Magee, Reggie Fuller, and Alden Allen; staff.

Call to Order at 12:00 p.m.

Approval of Minutes: Motion by Mitro, seconded by Mynarcik, to approve the minutes of June 2, 2011, with correction to page 2, last paragraph, line 1; remove 'to'. Motion passed.

Plans for Walking Tour and Listening Post: Magee requested assistance setting up the kiosk at 8:00 a.m. the morning of the tour. It will be located near the listening post, so as not to influence the public, but to provide information. Mynarcik and Mitro volunteered to assist with setup. Mynarcik has made provisions for refreshments and arranged to have the building open from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Magee introduced Alden, planning intern, who is doing a very good job on the characteristics of Bel Aire Subdivision. His work will be used to amend the zoning ordinance and can also be a basis for the National Register nomination.

Magee said the kiosk focuses on American Planning Association's "*Great Places in America*". The theme describes the qualities of special neighborhoods in the U. S. She presented a sample questionnaire to be used at the listening post for review by members. The listening post may be set up in the future at a public location such as Community Night Out. The group will see what the response is at the listening post; then decide on other venues for public input.

Mitro said she has not heard back from Carr regarding a tour of the recently renovated home/office on Water. She spoke with the architect and there is little historic value inside as the interior was completely gutted. Fuller said, although well done, it is not historically correct.

O. E. Bell lobby doors will open to the public prior to 10:00 a.m. Whipple will make a five minute introduction and the tour will commence at 10:00 a.m. The tour route is as follows: west from the O. E. Bell parking lot, north on Water crossing over to the north side of Cedar, east to Ridge Avenue, south to Maple Street, through the alley to Placer, north to Elm Street and the park, and along Ash and back to O. E. Bell. Switching guides during the tour causes confusion and it was decided to keep groups and guides together for the entire tour.

Discussion pursued regarding details that would be covered about each property along the way. Rose requested O.E. Bell, the Minnie Hitt (Harbor House), Hart Photography, and others be presented as good examples of adaptive uses. She believes an understanding of the value of older homes and community ethic for preservation of older properties was missing from the core group of decision makers for the church. She has received a number of emails asking if there is any regulatory infrastructure to preserve the home. Whipple thought the impact of a large group of people touring the site may impact the church's decision.

Rose said the economics presented does not make sense to her. It would cost \$48,000 in upgrades and they chose to demolish at a cost of \$50,000. Replacement of the existing home will cost \$700,000, but the present valuation by the church is almost \$300,000. Fuller believes the church considers the home an aesthetic burden to the appearance of the church while most people believe it adds to the church. Rose suggested placing the demolition photos online. She is arranging to have a good quality photo of the home taken and submitted to National Trust for Historic Preservation.

Reconnaissance Survey of Mid-Century Modern Homes: Magee reminded the commission the survey is scheduled for Thursday, August 4, 2011 at 5:00 p.m. She still needs to present SHPO with a description of the project. August may not be the ideal time due to vegetation obscuring the features of the homes. Mitro made a motion to postpone

the survey for two to three months. Motion passed.

Concerns of Members: Magee arranged for the printing of note cards using Reggie Fuller's ink drawing of the Linger House. She did not include the HPC logo because the Commission did not have a chance to approve them prior to printing. The logo will be incorporated on future runs. Rose suggested creating a set of cards. Magee said, if other funds than the grant monies are used, the script advising of the use of federal monies is not required.

Stephanie has an idea for a bumper sticker campaign using "Flip pancakes...not houses" which could be produced at a low cost. Magee said Mary Kinglier saw one that said "Gut fish...not houses". This type of campaign may be low cost way of sparking public interest in preservation.

Whipple had a conversation with reporter, Emma Bryce, *The Post Register*, regarding the Linger House. The article on the Linger House will be the highlight of the main page of The West section of the paper.

Adjourn: Motion to adjourn at 1:10 p.m.

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Debra Petty, Recording Secretary