

# IDAHO FALLS HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

August 11, 2011

Noon

City Annex Building Conference Room  
680 Park Avenue

**Attending:** Graham Whipple, Chair; Julie Braun; Roxane Mitro; Hereschell Mynarcik; and Stephanie Rose. Renee Magee, Alden Allen, Debra Petty; staff.

Call to Order at 12:02 p.m.

**Approval of Minutes:** Motion by Mitro, seconded by Mynarcik, to approve the minutes of July 7, 2011, as presented. Motion passed.

**Debrief Walking Tour:** Mitro said background noise made it difficult for attendees to hear during the tour. It is necessary for guides to have a microphone or bullhorns. Due to the large turnout, approximately 110, three groups were formed. One group was able to tour the Clements' House. There were many new faces in the group. Mynarcik said he received nothing but positive feedback.

Whipple received a number of offers for donations. Magee spoke with the controller about accepting the donations. The controller will create a line item in the revenue budget for general funds and the commission must track monies collected and how it is utilized. The advantage is the donation is tax deductible; the disadvantage is any large projects will have to be bid out. This is how Parks and Recreation is set it up for donations.

Rose wants the commission to have a resource library for historic preservation. Magee suggested any publications be donated to the library for use by everyone. By doing this all inventory is recorded and available to the general public. The Idaho Room at the library is not well known as it is behind locked doors. A section for historic preservation resources and display area may be desirable. Mitro will talk to Robert Wright, director of the library.

**Linger House Update:** Whipple said in the past couple of weeks there has been a revival of interest in saving the home. Bill Rigby has a vacant lot at the corner of Water and Elm next to the Hot Diggity Dog, but believes it is not the most desirable location for the home and may de-value the home. Mr. Rigby is in contact with executives of the Museum of Idaho to keep the home at its current location and use it as a reading room for the museum. The timeline for resolving the issue is intense.

Replacement cost of the home is estimated at \$280,000. Magee said the construction project for the steps and courtyard has been postponed until spring. She is wondering if the church will give the commission until spring to find an alternative use or move the home. Magee asked for the Commission to be diplomatic in their handling of the situation so as not to jeopardize any progress made with the First Presbyterian Church. The church wants any use to be related to the purpose of their ministry. Rose noted a timely article about the re-use of religious buildings for cultural enrichment. Saving the home is possible given more time.

**Description of Mid-Century Modern Reconnaissance Survey:** Magee said Alden Allen, planning intern, has been very helpful in researching the Bel-Aire subdivision. The information pulled together for a context does not fit the prescribed form but it is a start. Whipple suggested each member familiarize themselves with the context outlined by Magee for discussion at the next meeting.

**Miscellaneous:** Magee presented a draft newsletter to be distributed to residents in the historic districts on a quarterly basis. Benefits are greater presence of the Commission in the community, a larger audience for the newsletter on the Facebook page, and public education about the value of preserving historic properties in the community. Whipple said since Monday 60 fans were added to the HPC Facebook page.

Braun wrote a letter to the editor for review and comment by the commission. Rose suggested some of the successes be incorporated in her comments.

Rose would like to provide a service to the public by providing assistance in identifying personal photos of historic value, scanning the photos and placing them on a CD and archiving them. About three years ago, she presented the reading room of the museum with photos she believed of cultural significance, but the museum did not want them. Braun said most likely it is an issue of manpower. They have purchased a scanner and are in the process of scanning all their records. Rose believes this service can be organized if the commission partners with Idaho State University (ISU). Magee suggested including the museum. Braun said both organizations are open to partnering and assisting in collecting this kind of historic information on behalf of the community.

Braun said Eric Daw is purchasing a large number of historic photos. He lives in Seattle, Washington, but is a native of Idaho Falls. It appears he is willing to share the photos. It will be a great resource and many of them she has never seen. Whipple said links from the preservation website to the *Then and Now* photos and stories on Facebook strengthen the community. Rose said Idaho Falls Community Pathways is dealing with walk-ability/bike-ability and neighborhood connections. They may be instrumental in linking to historic preservation.

Magee said staff is working to update the website by incorporating maps of the historic districts with a photo/description of every contributing building in each district. Whipple has the raw data for the 11<sup>th</sup> Street brochure and maps he can upload to the Facebook page. Rose said there are a number of properties in the area worthy of nomination and a number not eligible due to renovations inconsistent with the original character of the home. Braun said a district must be a concentration of contributing properties. When they are individual nominations, the context within the district becomes more difficult.

Rose would like the newsletter to reference the National Trust for Historic Preservation. She suggested photos with a *"This Place Matters"* sign. Whipple said the website could include a link to print the sign and encourage people to post their photos and stories on Facebook. Rose believes greater affiliation with a larger presence can only help.

Rose talked about two pieces of legislature being proposed to make tax credits more appealing in the preservation of older properties: one is to allow credits to be used for private residences, which currently they are not, and increase the credit to 30% and allow the property to be sold upon completion. She also suggested educating realtors about preservation.

**Next Meeting, September 1, 2011:** The next meeting is September 1, not September 8.

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

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Debra Petty, Recording Secretary