

# IDAHO FALLS HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

September 1, 2011

Noon

City Annex Building Conference Room

680 Park Avenue

**Attending:** Graham Whipple, Chair; Nancy Boland; Cheryl Cox; Roxane Mitro; Hereschell Mynarcik; and Stephanie Rose. Renee Magee, Debra Petty; staff.

Call to Order at 12:05 p.m.

**Approval of Minutes:** Motion by Mitro, seconded by Mynarcik, to approve the minutes of August 11, 2011, as presented. Motion passed.

Mitro spoke with Robert Wright's assistant, Kim Rafferty. It is preferable to provide two copies of each book regarding preservation; one copy for the Idaho Room and one for general circulation.

## **Updates:**

1. **Letters to Post Register:** Both a guest editorial and a letter to the editor were presented to the Post Register on behalf of the commission. Whipple said it is hopeful at least one of them will be published in the paper. Specific examples were mentioned in the letters so entities will give more consideration to the preservation of historic landmarks within the city. Whipple suggested posting the letters to the Facebook page. Cox believes construction of a parking lot in lieu of preservation is a fallback excuse and Rose believes the position of the Commission is soft, not what it ought to be.
2. **Facebook Page:** Whipple is working on the advantages and functionality of Facebook for the commission. He updated "This Place Matters" information on Facebook and asked the commission to take an active role in posting photos of significant places in the city. Magee said Jan Blickenstaff purchased a number of historic photos. Some were scanned by Inkley's, and there are still a number of old negatives to be scanned. Once the scanning is complete, she suggested giving the negatives to the State Historical Society archives or Museum of Idaho. Whipple made administrators of anyone who are fans of preservation on Facebook and recommended members check their security settings. Cox met the son of the owner of Scott's Bookstore. About a year ago, he wanted the city to take the archives in his possession consisting of parade videos and old photos. Albums can be created by historic district on Facebook. It was suggested the group take photos with the "This Place Matters" sign during the reconnaissance survey and post them to the page.

The commission discussed the preservation of a number of historic signs, including those downtown and, specifically, those on the east side of the City Annex. Whipple said a mural is a snapshot in history and important. It was suggested contact be made with Craig Lords before they are covered in EIFS to see if they can be preserved.

Rose questioned the logic of serving on the commission for those that experience a conflict of interest in their professions. Mitro said the commission is to include lawyers, archeologists, architects, historians, and many are in a position of doing business with the city. She said it is a fine line and difficult to make others understand the importance of preservation. Rose said she visited some communities in Nebraska that are far more fiscally conservative than Idaho Falls. Many of their historic buildings were being torn down until people took a stand for preservation of their heritage. She believes public involvement is the only thing that saves, but the commission needs to lead the way. Boland said although owners of historic properties may not favor public opinion, the public still has the right to vocalize their feelings. Magee said many in leadership positions see decisions as to disposition of property as internal and private which is a reflection of the local culture. To have protection for historic properties, it will need to be a sustained citizen effort.

3. **Reconnaissance Survey:** The survey is scheduled for October and is part of the 2011/2012 work plan.

## **2011-2012 Work Plan:**

Whipple suggested a series of "This Place Matters" for all the murals and signs in the city. The commission agreed to meet Wednesday, September 7, 2011 at 4:00 p.m. to begin photographing the locations.

The annual tour will be discussed during a future meeting. The commission will focus on mid-century modern properties.

A winter lecture is desirable. Whipple suggested it be held in the auditorium of one of the schools. He referenced an article shared by Rose about a history teacher at a high school in Boise. A lecture of this type is an opportunity to involve students and possibly become an opportunity to have them scan photos for the commission. They discussed the possibility of Dan StanWiens being a presenter at the lecture.

**Miscellaneous:**

Boland is unable to leave work during lunch and may not be able to continue her position with the commission. Magee suggested changing the meeting time; however, Boland believed it was best to resign.

The annual historic preservation conference will be held in Spokane, Washington next fall. As it is relatively close geographically, members are being encouraged to attend. Magee will reflect this in the proposed scope of work for next year.

**Adjourn:** Motion to adjourn at 1:15 p.m.

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Debra Petty, Recording Secretary