

IDAHO FALLS HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

July 8, 2010

Noon

City Annex Building Conference Room
680 Park Avenue

Attending: Julie Braun; Cheryl Cox; John Hart; Roxane Mitro; Hereschell Mynarcik; Stephanie Rose; Graham Whipple. Renee Magee, and Debra Petty, staff.

Call to Order at 12:08 PM.

Approval of Minutes: Motion by Mitro, seconded by Mynarcik to approve the minutes of May 4, 2010, as presented.

Debrief on Annual Tour: Approximately 50 people attended the event and, considering the inclement weather, it was deemed a success. Positives aspects are: good food; breaking into two groups; comprehensive format of architecture and history; varied perspectives from commission members; focus on the “worker bees” rather than city founders; and participants left with a sense of value for the remaining housing and the desirability of the neighborhood in relation to the river. Areas to improve: reduce amount of food and time spent at ARTI Theater (too much information about theater and not the building).

Recommended tours for next year are to repeat the Historic Downtown, Old Eagle Rock and South Ridge District tour; a bus/trolley/bicycle tour; bicycle tour of the lettered streets; theme tour (i.e. log buildings, churches, basement houses, etc.); historic downtown core; mid-century modern to generate interest in 1960’s – 1970’s architecture; and the Bel Aire Subdivision or Happyville. The commission will discuss further in two or three months.

There is no new information on plans for the Rio Theater. Destinations Inn, recently purchased by the owners of the Black Swan in Pocatello, re-opened last month. The HUB is up for sale and was not purchased by Lyman Martin. The EICAP building on Constitution Way has a new owner with plans for façade improvements, and Pioneer Frame will soon undergo a façade upgrade.

National Register Nomination for Downtown: The highlighted areas of the 2009 nomination reflect preliminary changes by Magee. Resubmission of the final document is planned for early August 2010. Magee asked for assistance from Braun to write context; from Mitro, for a description of the ARTI building including the configuration of the basement and connection to Spud Alley; and for a history of Chesbro’s facade. She asked Whipple to find a term other than Gothic Revival for simple early 20th Century brick buildings. Cox will write a history of uses for the buildings. If anyone with time to research a building in the downtown, it would be helpful.

Rose believes photos in her possession of the Chesbro’s building can help identify when the façade was changed. She also suggested Magee contact Irene Wolf to help identify building uses in the historic downtown. Although Wolf is 88 years, her mind is very strong.. Mitro will contact Vanetta Williams for information on Chesbro’s. Magee asked about the location of C. C. Anderson’s.

Magee explained contributing structures are those with architectural historic significance. The National Parks Service suggested eliminating the non-contributing buildings on the edge of the district from the nomination. Magee believes eliminating Farrell’s is appropriate as it could be added to the district in the future. The same applies to the Wackerli Apartments. She said it is possible to adjust the boundary to incorporate significant buildings without including non-contributing structures. Magee would like the Wells Fargo included but it has not come of age. Whipple said it might be possible as First Security succeeded in Salt Lake, prior to being 50-years old. Braun said evolution is critical.

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

Debra Petty, Recording Secretary