

March 8, 2011 - Carrie Kiely's House

The March meeting was called to order by President Carrie Kiely at approximately 7:00 p.m. and adjourned at 8:30. Attendees: Larry Smith, Mitzi Rossillon, Dick Gibson, Robert Edwards, Carrie Kiely, Rick Poese, Irene Scheidecker,

Minutes: Minutes of the February meeting were not read.

Treasurer's Report: Rick reported 1099's have been sent, the 990 is sent, the Annual Report to the Sec. of State was sent. 2011 income through Feb: \$4415 (\$1755 memberships, \$160 donations, \$2500 Cultural Trust grant). Expenses: \$4361.78 - Greek Cafe bill (\$3420), PR Coordinator (\$735), office expenses (\$206.78).

Education:

- Ghost Sign Preservation and Restoration - no report
- Film festival - no report

ACTION ITEMS - Mar-Apr 2011

- **HIP Committee** - conduct workshop March 12
- **Dick** - promote HIP workshop on Facebook; remind Standard re March 31 deadline.
- **Dick** - send reminders about membership to lapsed members.
- **Irene, Carrie** - tweak Mitzi's HPC letter; circulate to board.
- **D2D Tour committee:** Meet March 10, 6pm at 815 W. Granite
- **Dick** - get D2D date announced.
- **Stained Glass committee:** meet, plan
- **Carrie et al.:** plan a seminar or the like on Ghost Sign Preservation and Restoration for Spring 2011 (carryover)
- **Mike** - plan salvage sales in April, May, plan for move out of remaining stuff by June.
- **Dick** - Home research workshop - plan (ongoing)
- **Irene** - make Don move junk stuff in salvage alley to dump
- **Carrie** - ongoing re Film Festival
- **Dick** - include ref to minutes in general monthly mailing
- **Dick** - put together and submit a premium package to Montana Public Radio
- **Dick** - pursue presentations to civic groups (ongoing)
- **VOLUNTEERS** - hours to Dick

HIP Grants: The deadline for 2011 applications is March 31. There's a helper workshop on Saturday March 12, 1-3 pm at the Wackerbarth's, 301 W. Granite. The program has been announced twice in the Standard, promised in the Weekly, and promoted on KTVM. Extension for Pat Mohan (2010) was approved unanimously. Dick is to remind Facebook fans about the helper workshop.

Salvage: Mike, Mitzi, other members, and CCCS helpers moved most of the materials to the 1st floor of the Grand Hotel. There is some stuff (less than a pick-up load) in the alley that needs to go to the dump. Irene volunteered Don Scheidecker to handle that. We will need to move again by June, so desired plan is to have monthly salvage sales (April, May) then determine where any remaining stuff will need to go. The historic granite pavers we have held on behalf of BSB have reportedly been moved by BSB to the Kelly warehouse.

Grants: Repeated from January & February minutes: Dick reported that the present C&A grant, which supports the office, phone, and P.R. position, was originally for \$8400 for the two years (2009-11) but they have a shortfall and all grants are reduced, so ours is now a total of \$6,667. Nicole is going to continue to manage this grant (file semi-annual reports etc.). The grant presently in application process, for FY 2011-13, requested \$16,940 and \$12,000 was recommended. That amount will also be less when things are finalized.

PR Coordinator report: Dick summarized membership levels for the past four years (the time we have had membership levels) - totals in 2008 = 67, 2009 = 66; 2010 = 47, 2011 to date = 43. Part of the change between 2008-9 and 2010-11 is attributable to workshop participants that were "memberized." Dick proposed sending a follow up to "lapsed members as a reminder/request to re-up. This was approved; involves a bit of Dick's time and some postage.

OLD BUSINESS

Greek Cafe: The public hearing on the single developer's packet proposal is tomorrow, March 9, at the Court House at 7:30. Members and friends of Butte historical preservation are encouraged to attend and comment.

Dust to Dazzle: Date is set: June 25. Four venues are pretty well established; two more are sought. There is a committee meeting for planning the tour on March 10, 6pm at 815 W. Granite

HPC awareness campaign: discussion of Mitzi's draft letter regarding possible ordinance changes. Carrie and Irene to tweak, Board to comment and contribute to the communique.

Law Library reception: The last we have heard this will be scheduled for Friday March 25.

Home Research Workshop: Repeated from Feb. minutes: Date set - 2:00 pm Thursday April 14 at Archives. Dick will focus on using Sanborn Maps, Mitzi on using the other resources in the Archives.

Other: none.

NEW BUSINESS

Montana Public Radio promotion: in the mail is a request from MTPR for promotions. Dick to make a package and submit. (D2D tickets, stained glass book, VAF book, etc.)

Stained Glass Tour: repeated from February: approaches and logistics discussed. Committee formed: Irene and Dick, others welcome.

Other: none.

OTHER REPORTS

These reports from Dick are sent to the Board at the time the meetings are attended. Notes from those meetings are added here in the monthly minutes. Robert requested, and the Board approved, that Dick should specifically refer to the online minutes in the monthly mass e-mail.

Historic Preservation Commission: Historic Preservation Commission meeting, 3/1/11

1. Certificate of Appropriateness (COA), design review, for Air Exchange building (35 S. Main, corner Galena). Issue is with the transom prism glass panels, falling apart. HPC approved a measure to cover the existing panels, which will preserve them in place. Restoration not feasible at present for cost reasons.

2. Butte School Dist. Admin. Bldg. (111 N. Montana). Window and door replacement. High-quality replacement, metal-clad wood, 78 windows. No visible vinyl, replacement reduces daylight openings by 1" in height, 1.25" in width. HPC approved.

3. M&M, review for URA funding. Front facade changes: enlarge windows, which removes about 18" of art deco metal facade; one window becomes a street serving space. Windows will hinge upward and

inward. Concern about existing interior neon signs; goal to preserve. Alley wall - unknown what is under cement cladding. Concerns expressed about stucco, especially with its use setting an unacceptable precedent, and with any new stucco covering cast iron store front elements in alley. Further review after nature of wall beneath cover is seen. Also address water drainage issue in alley. Big neon sign in front: plan to remove "cafe 24 hours" and replace with "cigar store." Plan to refurbish ghost sign on north side; no budget at present. Upstairs interior - new ceiling, extent structural support from basement to top level floor. Plan for "museum" in concert with Mining Museum, and meeting spaces there. No changes to 2nd floor front facade other than paint trim. HPC approved.

4. 311 S. Dakota - demolition review for historic (ca. 1920s) brick garage. HPC approved demolition for structural assessment (serious problems).

5. Short discussions - Eugenia Apts, owner willing to be listed on Local Register. Hennessey Bldg telcom towers, sec. 106, still discussed. Possible future project re Orphan Boy, which is Natl Reg eligible for fan house bldg - DOE and MBMG will be using/studying for possible geothermal heat source for Tech's Natural Resources Bldg.

6. Staff report. A. SHPO workshop that includes Jim Jarvis and RHHP updating now scheduled March 25 in Helena. EPA says they have no funding to help, ARCO says maybe. B. Big Hole Pump Station - maintenance plan and restoration plan in progress.

7. CLG Grant application due March 31. HPC concerns: proposed amendments to HP ordinance have not come to HPC; worries that the CLG application might include references to ordinance revisions that are not in effect yet. Possible amendments include legal procedural items, staff (HPO) responsibility and level of independence, scope of ordinance (Hist Dist vs all county), specification of coordination with URA and other departments. Lengthy discussion, at times confrontational, boiled down to HPC does not trust HPO; agreement does not exist as to what is "routine" or "minor" versus "major" and "sophisticated", with minor meaning things the HPO just handles and other things being brought to HPC. HPC is frustrated in dealings with other departments and with BSB administration. Bottom line, HPC will send (or re-send) comments on the CLG application to Jim Jarvis; he will revise the application to be more in concert with the existing HP ordinance and will take the comments into consideration. With those stipulations and review and agreement by mid-March or so, the HPC approved the CLG application.

8. Interpretive signage in the works for the Mountain Con park and trails.

Community Enrichment: not attended in February.

Butte Restoration Alliance: Heritage Park: no report.

URA: URA meeting Feb 10, 2011.

Three actionable items.

1. Sheet Mountain Electric, 125 W. Galena, a building taken on repossession by BLDC, now has interested parties, wants to improve by replacing broken glass and garage doors. URA approved \$718 = 25% of total.

2. M&M. I have probably spelled their names wrong - purchasers Jankovich and Kenison, working with current owner Vander Molen who is on board fully (they have not closed on the sale yet), requested up to \$50,000 for various repairs mostly alley wall and electrical re-installation to meet code, and front facade. HPO has reviewed preliminarily and says OK, but it will have to go to HPC.

They want to bring it back to a 1920s-30s look. Want to partner with World Museum of Mining, especially on 2nd floor, to create library, museum displays, meeting room(s). Goal is not just a bar and grill, also near-museum and "merchandising" which I inferred to mean some version of gift shop, also

"cigar store" - news stand, coffee out the window, etc. On ground level, changes would reduce the amount of the metal facade (1950s) and expand the windows to more like it was in the 1930s; interior spaces would change so the windows are windows.

Repair work on the vaulted sidewalk is imminent. Plan to open briefly during St. Patrick's week, then fully open June 1.

URA approved grant of up to \$50,000, 25% of est. total cost (they are also working with BLDC on loans and other financing). Subject to HPC review.

3. Jim Kambich, MERDI, requesting increase in existing URA grant for Thornton (specifically for Data Center/Supercomputer) from \$75,000 to \$125,000. Their original 2008 grant package was \$200K Federal, \$125K state, \$75K URA. The state allocation has increased to \$225K. This expansion of the URA grant will be almost all for electrical work, no building structural work. URA increased the grant to \$125K which is still below their 25% of total guideline.

MERDI is submitting a NSF grant in March for "a couple million." If they get that they anticipate buying property in Uptown Butte near the Thornton.

4. URA board is trying to schedule Strategic Planning meeting - I inferred it is multi-hours if not a day-long session; difficulty scheduling; tentatively March 4.

Council of Commissioners issues: Feb. 9, 2011 council meeting (committee of the whole) was chaired by Cindi Shaw as Dave Palmer had shoulder surgery.

The two items of interest were

Communication 10-624, Nicole's request to make a presentation on the Greek Cafe on November 23, 2010. This had been held in abeyance. Chair Shaw said this was originally a presentation only (slight emphasis on only) and the issue has now advanced to developer's packet. A motion was made to place the communication on file; passed. Mark Reavis, who walked out with me afterward, inferred that statement to perhaps indicate recognition that since it was a presentation only, their vote that included a contingency for demolition was invalid.

Communication 10-625, Mark's request to present about URA procedures. Apparently 2 weeks ago, after Mark spoke to the URA board, and after the board discussed (?) and minutes were sent to commissioners, Commissioner Foley asked for a presentation tonight by Karen Byrnes to give an educational overview of the URA to the council. This is my attempt to simply report objectively what she reported. If you would like interpretation from Mark, of course ask him for that.

She began by specifically addressing Mark's concern about two projects (Mother Lode, Greek Cafe) that are basically the same but were treated differently. Karen said yes, they were treated differently, as all projects are individualized depending on their nature. Said the URA board was uncomfortable with the second request for \$95,000 because of the state of the Greek Cafe, which was why they brought the question to Council.

The rest was URA history and procedures. Around since 1980. All applicants get an information packet, but then individual consultation and tailoring to specific projects. They have guidelines, which are not codified and which do change. Copies of the guidelines are available on request. 2007-2010, 111 private projects, \$4 million from URA leveraged to \$16 million private investment. Taxing authority ends in 2014. Comm. Foley asked, what then? Karen said, with loan monies, establish revolving fund in perpetuity. The URA Board is meeting on strategic planning in March, one topic is the possibility of creating another district; south of Platinum St. was specifically mentioned.

Paul Babb spoke championing the use of multiple departments in the individualizing of projects and general good results from the URA.

Comm. Hall asked if there is a commissioner on the URA Board. Answer, no.

Communication placed on file.

Feb. 16 Council Meeting: not attended, following gleaned from agenda:

1. Jim Jarvis requesting authorization for a letter to Kelsey Dalton (MT Dept of Commerce) transferring the HB 645 grant contract on the Greek Cafe from CPR to BSB. Recommendation was to concur.
2. You probably know that Jim's application to SHPO for \$20,000 (a Preserve America sub-grant) to revise and update the RHPP was successful. They are amending the CLG agreement so that SHPO adds \$75 to the \$5500 allocation to the BSB HPO - that is to pay for a trip to Helen by Jim for a project coordination meeting. Recommendation to concur.

Feb. 23 Council Meeting: nothing of interest to HP.

March 2 Council Meeting: Re Greek Cafe developer's packet presentation by Nick Kujawa. Note - Mitzi was there too and I defer to her regarding any technical issues or any other issues.

Nick's concern is that the condition of the building means he cannot get construction insurance. His proposal is for BSB to work with Beaudette to create a temporarily stabilization and interior clean up, using the grant monies, and carry the liability while that continues. He made the point that if it did fall down during that work, it would be a "failed restoration" rather than a demolition and that would be less bad. Once Beaudette "signed off" on stability, Nick would do the developers packet deal and proceed with the straightforward restoration, essentially building a new building inside the stabilized shell.

Comm. Foley asked County Attorney - are you comfortable with this arrangement? She really didn't say anything, just that ultimately it is a policy decision by the Council.

Comm. Foley asked Dan Dennehey - are you comfortable with the arrangement? He basically said yes but apprehensive.

Nick pointed out a couple times that the county has the liability now, anyway, and would also during demolition.

Main Street Uptown Butte: no report.

Other: none.

OTHER DISCUSSION

none.

Next Meeting: *Tuesday April 12, 2011, 7:00 p.m. at Irene Scheidecker's house, 31 E. Copper.*