

Nov. 13, 2012 - Butte Archives

Beginning at 7:00, and prior to the regular meeting, President Irene Scheidecker asked for short presentations from the attendees at the National Trust Conference in Spokane. Dick Gibson had previously sent a report; he read the titles of the sessions he attended and focused on the one on Creative Mitigation. He said in Washington State, they require as a condition of mitigations (as appropriate) that proponents must provide or pay for entries into Washington's on-line history encyclopedia, HistoryLink.org. He said he thought this was something Butte should have and he is pursuing it.

Mitzi Rossillon visited with Historic Spokane (their CPR equivalent) which does a neighborhood painting day, something we might consider. She heard a talk on Youth Summits to engage young people and to expand diversity of those connected to preservation. She participated in a 5-session Real Estate Learning Lab, which focused on what has traditionally been called revolving funds. She brought a lot of information and ideas and is now committed to making something happen along these lines in Butte. She thinks the best, low-risk option for CPR would be property options, working initially using volunteers but growing quickly to paid staff and (as we discussed years ago) ultimately targeting the Arco Redevelopment Trust for funding. This will require a board or committee with some autonomy and some budget, and needs people with expertise in real estate development.

Nicole von Gaza reported that Mark Reavis attended a session on HP education in Washington state, and appreciated their web-based focus on different aspects of education regarding historic preservation, including focus on compliance workers. He discussed museums (e.g., Chicago's National Public Housing Museum) using modern technology such as laser scanners to create virtual museum experiences, and indicated that Highlands College has such a scanner. Mark and Nicole had a booth in the exhibit hall, and among other things, Lisa Edwards' iconic photo of the Greek Cafe (with Robert and baby Jack) was a poignant attention-getter.

At about 7:30, Irene called the regular meeting to order. In attendance: Irene Scheidecker, Nicole von Gaza, Steven Keuch, Larry Smith, Julie Crowley, Cindy Gaffney, Dick Gibson, Robert Renouard (on the phone), Robert Edwards (later), and Mark Reavis (later). The meeting ended at 9:00

Action Items are in red below.

The action items from the previous meeting were read; the minutes were approved.

Treasurer's report: bank balance is about \$26,457; commitments include approximately \$6,300 in HIP grants awarded this year and at least \$500 in HIP grants from last year, not yet paid.

Council of Commissioners: we had a message from Ristene Hall asking if CPR had anything more about taking ownership of the Brinks building. Consensus was that CPR had previously made a decision on this some months ago; apart from the fact that the building is condemned, it is far too large for CPR to deal with at this time. CPR is committed to the preservation of the building but our hands are tied in terms of direct action. **Dick to communicate with Ristene.**

URA meetings: Dick has not attended any lately; agendas have not included anything that looked controversial.

HPC meeting: The November meeting was immediately prior to this CPR meeting. Dick reported as follows:

All commissioners were present except for Brittany Lynch, who was excused. Public present: Mark

Reavis, Jim Shive, Dick Gibson, Bill Anderson, Micah Sunderberg (an applicant for a project).

The infill project at 314 W. Broadway (URA-funded design review) was approved.

In the HPO's staff report, they discussed the question of whether or not the HPC is content with the way the HPO has been handling environmental assessments (i.e., not sending preliminary versions; Jim Shive had complained about that as improper procedure). Decision was that any such materials would be posted to the BSB web site for access by HPC members if they desired.

Jim Jarvis made a short presentation of Heritage Strategies' implementation plan for the tourism aspects of the RHPP. The HPC embraced the product and encouraged its implementation.

They discussed the HPC by-laws and the way the public participates in meetings. Some commissioners did not want public involvement during deliberations and discussion; others wanted to be able to call on members of the public as necessary. Ultimately they decided that they would call for public comments on agenda items at the start of a meeting, and call for public comments on other items at the end of a meeting. They noted the ongoing right to call public hearings as needed. They did not address the question of a member who might wish to request input from someone in the audience during the meeting, as is the rule in Council meetings. I believe they decided to begin holding HPC meetings in the council chambers. They noted that the current by-laws allow for the Chair to participate and vote, and they re-iterated this provision.

Jim Jarvis announced (no action at this time) plans for NAHN to infill at a vacant lot at 613 W. Granite, and that they have purchased the adjacent property for rehab.

Dick left the HPC meeting at this point to attend the CPR meeting. Following is reported by Robert Edwards later in the CPR meeting:

From the HPO Staff report: Ghost Sign Restoration - In cooperation with the Mainstreet Uptown Butte program a professional sign restoration firm (Wall Dogs) visited Butte briefly last summer to view our local ghost signs. They recently restored the Eddy's Bakery sign in downtown Helena. We have scheduled the firm to return to Butte later this month (November) to more thoroughly inspect our local signs with the goal of having some of them professionally restored next summer. In support of existing design guidelines, the goal is to have the signs professional restored to ensure their on-going visibility and contribution to the historic district as public art. Information on the Wall Dogs will be presented at the November HPC meeting. HPC members are invited to meet with the professional artists when in town later this month. A secondary project is to have two entryway murals also created by Wall Dogs to welcome visitors to the south boundary of the Uptown area. A letter of inquiry for funding support for this project was submitted by the HPO to ArtPlace. ArtPlace is a non-profit groups interested in helping communities develop vibrant public spaces that include creative uses of public art.

Robert reported on the discussion; typical ghost sign discussion. CPR feels that individuals with any thoughts on the questions should communicate with the HPC and with MainStreet.

Old Business

Replacement for P.R. position and secretary position: No new interest expressed. Mitzi called for a board meeting to discuss this and other board issues, including the makeup of the board (re: real estate programs), and consolidation of salvage and how to handle it. **The meeting is scheduled for 6:30 p.m., Tuesday Nov. 20, at the Archives.**

Neglected Buildings - letters. **Everything from the previous meeting is continued.**

CPR has joined as an interested party in the BSB Community Development Committee's activities

regarding NAHN's NSP3 plans. This means we will get copies of all communications.

New Business

Christmas Party: scheduled for 6:00 p.m., Tuesday Dec. 11, at Lisa Edwards' studio, 102 W. Granite. It will be pot-luck appetizers, with assignments. Irene and Cindy will coordinate.

Committee reports

Dust to Dazzle update: committee met. Julie Crowley, Janice Hogan, and Yvonne Metesh are coordinators. **Need to confirm that Anna Docktor continues as volunteer coordinator. Need a volunteer to serve as the vendor liaison.**

Salvage: Mitzi and Mike salvaged some stuff from the Oklahoma Street house; there was not enough time and there was a lot of great stuff they could not recover, but it included a claw-foot tub (we sell at \$200) and 10 Douglas fir columns. Mike wants to pass the torch as salvage coordinator. Discussion centered on consolidation of our materials into one location, then having one (or more) scheduled days per month for people to buy, rather than the complex appointment arrangement we have now. Discussion of Jeff Francis' place at a possible cost of \$250 per year. Discussion of including more explicit salvage language in HPC's mandated mitigation conditions for demolitions, which should apply to minor buildings as well (which often do not even go to the HPC for review). **Dick to find appropriate language.** We need a good, detailed inventory of what we have. **This is all to be addressed at Nov. 20 board meeting.**

HIP Grants: Committee needs more members. Discussion of need to update criteria etc on web site NOW, as inquiries are coming in. Discussion of increasing the maximum amount for grants from \$1000 to \$2000 for the upcoming year. We plan to remove verbiage about large grants from the 2012 guidelines.

Next meeting : Christmas Party, Tues Dec. 11, 6:00 pm (note time), Lisa Edwards' studio at 102 West Granite. Pot luck with assignments to be announced.