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Pierre/Ft. Pierre Historic Preservation Commission June 2023 Minutes

June 20, 2023, meeting at the Log Cabin, Ft. Pierre, SD called to Order by President Zeller at 12:08pm.

In Attendance

Commission Members: President Don Zeller, Treasurer Donna Leslie, Secretary Robert Kean, Sunny Hannum, Deb Gates

Guests: Beth S. Thompson

Meeting working documents were referred to and reviewed in preparation for Commission discussion.

Commission Members Volunteer Hours were recorded. Commission Members discussed the Volunteer Hours reporting document format to ensure that the layout is functional and captures the necessary data.

Approval of Minutes

The Revised Draft May 16, 2023, Commission Minutes were reviewed. There being no further additions or corrections offered, Deb Gates moved, Sunny Hannum seconded, that the PFPHPC May 16, 2023, Minutes be approved and distributed as presented. MOTION PASSED

Financial Planning Document Review

Commission Members reviewed the PFPHPC Financial Planning Document dated June 16, 2023, and accompanying supporting materials provided to Commission Members prior to the meeting by Commission Treasurer Donna Leslie. Additional financial information and notes provided by Treasurer Leslie included: the Final Report of the 2022-2023 State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) grant (Budget Expense Category #410) that was submitted to the Pierre City financial office in compliance with the grant requirements; payment information for a replacement sign for Andy's Meat Market in Ft. Pierre; invoice submittal for Dr. Brad Tennant presentation; details of the new SHPO grant; and, updates on costs related to Commission generated brochures/booklets, dues/website hosting, unobligated funds and anticipated expenditures. Treasurer Leslie noted that the new SHPO grant has not been given a Budget Expense Category reference number yet, but it is expected to be issued shortly.

Old Business : Turtle Effigy Clean UP

The Turtle Effigy site was mowed and weeded on the evening of June 12, 2023. It is anticipated that it will not need further attention this season.

State/Tribal Grant Email Review

There is nothing to report currently.

Ft. Pierre Chouteau Bike Path

Commission Member Robert Kean reported that the City of Ft. Pierre has been able to fill work positions that will greatly assist the effort to paint a bike path onto Ft. Chouteau Road from the current bike path that runs parallel to Highway 1806 to the fort site. One hire has previous experience with paint stripping and the equipment anticipated to be used. Kean further shared that the current sign at the point where the bike path crosses Ft. Chouteau Road could be upgraded with larger lettering for visibility and perhaps more expansive descriptive verbiage to describe the area.

Van Metre Bridge/Bike Path Grant Information

Commission Members reviewed previous discussions concerning the refurbishing of the Van Metre Bridge. Commission consensus is that it was decided to have a qualified engineer survey the bridge to determine its condition and whether it currently presents any critical structural issues. Determining whether the refurbishing effort would be cosmetic (i.e., replace railings and planking) or require structural work would be critical information to have before seeking grant funding. President Zeller will contact the engineer with the required credentials who was previously mentioned to see if there is an interest in proceeding with a bridge structural survey.

Brad Tennant/Tales on the River

Commission Members reviewed their experiences in attending the Dr. Brad Tennant presentation on June 15, 2023, at the Short Grass Arts Council event co-sponsored by PFPHPC. Those experiences, in addition to overheard and shared comments from others and the written/submitted evaluations indicate the presentation was very well received. The public attendance was one of the largest in recent memory due in large part to the advanced multi-media information placement efforts. Commission Member Hannum reported that she submitted the evaluations information to the SD Humanities Council to comply with the speaker's bureau requirements. Commission Members further discussed the interest in having Mr. Tennant return next year. Potential topics could include further discussion of aspects of the Lewis and Clark expedition, the open range in South Dakota and Scotty Philip. Commission Member Hannum will contact Mr. Tennant to see if he is interested in speaking again next year and the range of topics he would be interested in presenting. Hannum also mentioned another potential speaker for the Commission's consideration to sponsor. Mr. Lonis Wendt from Vivian, SD is also a very experienced presenter on a range of relevant topics.

New Business : Verendrye Monument/Ft. Pierre Chouteau Inspection

Commission Member Kean reported that he was in contact with the City of Ft. Pierre Public Works Director Rick Hahn regarding a date and time to inspect the Verendrye Monument and Ft. Pierre Chouteau. An inspection of the maintenance and upkeep of the Monument and Chouteau is required during the months of June, July, and August in accordance with the current Memorandum of Agreement with the City of Ft. Pierre, PFPHPC and SHPO. The June inspection will take place on June 28, 2023, beginning at 4pm at the Verendrye Monument. Commission Members are welcome to join in the inspection.

QR Code/Stickers Update

President Zeller reported that he is working through the QR codes list of sites to update and replace them. The codes at various sites in the Pierre/Ft. Pierre communities have deteriorated due to weather and some have been vandalized. The upgrade will include a clear plastic cover to help protect them longer from the elements. Zeller estimates that there will be approximately 24 QR codes replaced.

MOTION: Deb Gates moved, Sunny Hannum seconded, that up to \$50.00 be expended from the current SHPO grant (Budget Expense Category number not yet assigned) to cover the costs associated with replacing QR codes in the Pierre/Ft. Pierre communities. MOTION PASSED

2023/2024 SHPO Grant Update

Commission Members discussed the new SHPO grant award and the required volunteer hour match it will require. Continuing discussion included possible future activities to consider during the current grant period. President Zeller shared an ongoing interest he has explored to establish an interactive digital display to be located in the Pierre Chamber of Commerce building alongside other dedicated displays directed towards visitors to the Pierre/Ft. Pierre communities. To date, Zeller has explored several avenues to economically provide a digital display of selected content from the Commission's website (www.historicpierrefortpierre.com) without linking to the site itself. Several possible avenues to accomplish his goals were discussed that he will continue to pursue and report back to the Commission.

Cedar Hill Cemetery Update

Commission Member Sunny Hannum reported that burial plots in the historic Cedar Hill Cemetery south of Ft. Pierre are again available for purchase. Plots are available for \$200 and green burials are being considered. Persons interested must secure the plots through the City of Ft. Pierre to ensure that earlier burials are not disturbed, and new burials are accurately recorded. Hannum further shared that the Cedar Hill Cemetery Committee is still working on a comprehensive map of the cemetery and had sought a grant to assist in another survey. Hannum will contact Doug Mortenson who is on the cemetery committee for an update on the map's status and feasibility of the cemetery committee's sharing the results when completed.

Driving Tour Booklet Corrections

Feedback on the most recently published Driving Tour booklet of Historic Pierre & Fort Pierre Places (Revised 4/6/2019) indicates that readers find the numbers used on the center-page map to locate the sites in the Pierre/Ft. Pierre communities do not have enough contrast which makes them difficult to read. This issue was noted and will be changed in future printings. Commission Member Sunny Hannum will follow up with Commission Member Kelli Buscher who designed the map to see that the contrast issue with site numbers on the center-page map is addressed on the master copy of the booklet for future printings. Further discussion reviewed the number and location of Driving Tour booklets and the method of distributing them to the hotels/motels in the Pierre/Ft. Pierre communities.

Sign Vandalism

Commission Member Sunny Hannum reported that the sign next to the historic jail in Ft. Pierre was damaged irreparably by fire, probably by a cigarette lighter. The incident was reported to law enforcement, but there is no further information available. After Commission discussion, it was agreed that the sign should be replaced. Hannum will follow-up on this effort.

MOTION: Deb Gates moved, Donna Leslie seconded, that up to \$300.00 be expended from Budget Expense Category #423 to replace the Ft. Pierre Historic Jail sign. MOTION PASSED

President Zeller reported that the newly replaced signs at the Verendrye Monument were glued to the previous signs and one of them is missing, either taken or blown away. Zeller has contacted Dr. Carlson-Dietmeier at SHPO, and she indicated that her office would pay for the replacement sign. Zeller will follow-up on this effort.

Commission Member Sunny Hannum reported that after the historic Andy's Meat Market sign was replaced due to damage at the corner of East Main and Deadwood avenues, an additional Andy's Meat Market sign was left inside the current Maier Meat Market in Ft. Pierre. Since it is not needed, Hannum will confirm that the second sign will stay on the Maier Meat Market premises.

Visitors Seeking Genealogy Information

Commission Member Sunny Hannum shared that many recent visitors are seeking genealogical information and the many resources available to her through her work at the Log Cabin in Ft. Pierre and the Commission's materials are a good source of information to help answer the many questions.

Other:

President Zeller reported that he responded to a contact from a party wanting to donate photos and other items of possible interest from the Pierre/Ft. Pierre communities. The material included photos of persons and the Missouri River flood of 1952. After looking through the photo album and accompanying items, Zeller recommended that the material be donated to the state archives office at the SD Cultural Heritage Center.

Meeting Adjourned

Meeting adjourned at 1:02pm.

NEXT MEETING DATE: Tuesday, July 18, 2023, at 12:00pm, noon at a location to be announced.