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Pierre/Ft. Pierre Historic Preservation Commission July 2023 Minutes

July 18, 2023, meeting at the Pierre Senior Center, Pierre, SD called to Order by President Zeller at 12:10pm.

In Attendance

Commission Members: President Don Zeller, Treasurer Donna Leslie, Secretary Robert Kean, Kelli Buscher

Guests:

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

Commission Members Volunteer Hours were recorded. Commission Members discussed the merits of having a report of the Volunteer Hours accumulated to date available at the monthly meetings to verify the ongoing Commission requirements to match hours are being addressed and met. By consensus, it was agreed that a report would be beneficial.

Approval of Minutes

The Revised Draft June 20, 2023, Commission Minutes were reviewed. There being no further additions or corrections offered, Kelli Buscher moved, Donna Leslie seconded, that the FPFHPC June 20, 2023, Minutes be approved and distributed as presented. MOTION PASSED

Financial Planning Document Review

Commission Members reviewed the PFPHPC Financial Planning Document dated July 17, 2023, and accompanying materials provided to Commission Members prior to the meeting by Commission Treasurer Donna Leslie. Additional financial information and notes provided by Treasurer Leslie included a recap of approved expenditures by fund category and status of current invoices. Treasurer Leslie further explained and provided examples of additional reporting information that is now being incorporated into the Financial Planning Document setting out the current amounts of Unobligated Funds in each category. To further assist in Commission planning, the Financial Planning Document will also now have an Anticipated Expenditures section by funding category that will be based on routine historic spending patterns.

Old Business State/Tribal Grant Information

Commission Member Kelli Buscher reported that there is nothing of direct Commission interest to report at this time. President Zeller also noted that the information available seemed directed to efforts that are not within the purview of the Commission's mission.

Ft. Pierre Chouteau Bike Path

Commission Member Robert Kean reported it has come to his attention that the City of Ft. Pierre and Stanley County are considering chip sealing Ft. Chouteau Street yet this summer. That project will delay painting of a bike path until after it is completed. Kean will report on the status of the bike path painting onto Ft. Chouteau Street as warranted.

Van Metre Bridge/Bike Path Grant Information

Commission Members reviewed previous discussions concerning the refurbishing of the Van Metre Bridge. It was agreed that the initial effort would be to have a qualified engineer survey the bridge to determine its condition and whether it currently presents any critical structural issues. That survey will help determine and guide any future course of action. Commission Members Buscher and Zeller will attempt to contact engineers regarding their qualifications to conduct such an inspection survey and interest in conducting the survey and further assisting in preparing grant applications.

Cedar Hill Cemetery Update Information

Nothing to report currently.

Stanley County Jail Sign Replacement

President Zeller will follow up on the status of the Stanley County Jail replacement sign and report back to the Commission.

New Business Verendrye/Chouteau Inspection

An inspection of the maintenance and upkeep of the Verendrye Monument and Ft. Pierre Chouteau is required each year during the months of June, July, and August in accordance with the current Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the City of Ft. Pierre, PFPHPC, and State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). Commission Members Kelli Buscher, Donna Leslie and Robert Kean participated in the inspection of the Monument and Chouteau on June 28, 2023, on behalf of the Commission. They were joined by Dr. Jenna Carlson Dietmeier from SHPO and Brett Fergen from Ft. Pierre Public Utilities Department. While the overall appearance of the sites regarding scattered debris, grass mowing, availability of garbage receptacles and general clean appearance was favorable, issues that have been raised previously have yet to be addressed. Significantly, the sidewalk at the Verendrye Monument has settled in two places that create an ADA concern and present a potential hazard of bodily injury if someone were to trip and fall. Other concerns included: one interpretive sign is missing at the Verendrye Monument and the five interpretive signs at the Ft. Pierre Chouteau are in need of replacement due to weathering (see New Funds for Signs below); broken blacktop material on the cement pad under the Chouteau; weed abatement on the pathway and surrounding the pad at the Chouteau need attention; and the timber perimeter fence at the Chouteau has several spans that have fallen. An inspection report will be prepared including the noted concerns and distributed to the participants of the MOA.

QR Code/Stickers Update

President Zeller reported that he is working through a list of QR Codes to specifically verify each code's accuracy and functionality. Commission discussion continued whether to replace codes at locations where they once were located but have since been removed. For example, codes were once located on the Scurr House, Hyde House and Crawford House but are not there presently.

NAPC Web Seminars

The National Alliance of Preservation Commissions (NAPC) was founded in 1983 to assist local governments that met the requirements of the Certified Local Government (CLG) program to fulfill their purpose and responsibilities. NAPC's assistance includes providing relevant historic preservation educational material through a variety of methods and venues including seminars. President Zeller has reviewed some of the offerings and will share them with Commission Members.

Driving Tour Booklet Updates/Reorder

Commission Members reviewed the recommendation to increase the color contrast to the numbers on the center-map of the Driving Tour booklet. Commission Member Kelli Buscher, who designed the page, will make the necessary changes. Once that is done, the booklet will be ready for re-publishing.

NPS Semiquincentennial Grant Program

The National Park Service is sponsoring a Semiquincentennial Grant Program to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States. Commission Members discussed some possibilities that possibly could be considered for grant purposes including enhancing the current display of the Verendrye plaque at the monument site.

New Funds for Signs

President Zeller reported that he has been in contact with SHPO regarding resources to replace the missing interpretive sign at the Verendrye Monument and the five interpretive signs on the walking path at the Ft. Pierre Chouteau that are deteriorating. Cost estimates have been requested and Zeller will pursue their replacement. All replacement signs and the currently remaining sign at the Verendrye Monument will need to be better secured to the signpost than by an adhesive.

Meeting Adjourned

Meeting adjourned at 12:45pm.

NEXT MEETING DATE: Tuesday, August 15, 2023, at 12pm, noon.

Commission Members discussed the advantages of conducting future meetings at the Pierre Senior Center. The Center's Board Room offers ample table space to spread out materials and working documents, has adequate parking, is closer to work sites for Commission Members who have limited lunch hours, and avoids the time-consuming ongoing traffic congestion crossing the Missouri River Bridge. President Zeller was asked to explore the possibility of establishing an agreement with the Pierre Senior Center Board for the Commission's use of the Board Room for its monthly meetings.