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Pierre/Ft. Pierre Historic Preservation Commission August 2023 Minutes

August 15, 2023, meeting at the Log Cabin, Ft. Pierre, SD called to Order by President Zeller at 12:06pm.

In Attendance

Commission Members: President Don Zeller, Treasurer Donna Leslie, Kelli Buscher, Alan Haarstad, Sunny Hannum, and Ted Spencer.

Guest: Beth Thompson.

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

Commission Volunteer Hours

Commission members' volunteer hours were recorded. President Don Zeller explained that, to meet South Dakota State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) grant requirements, the commission needs a total of 447.7 volunteer hours - or an average of 55.6 hours per commission member - during the current SHPO grant cycle, which runs from June 1, 2023 through May 31, 2024. He noted that, from June 1 through July 31, 2023, commission members had reported a total of 79.5 hours of volunteer time on behalf of the commission.

Commission Member Ted Spencer outlined how the funding process begins with a \$900,000 grant issued by the National Park Service (NPS) to SHPO, which is then distributed to Certified Local Governments (CLGs). Spencer also explained the requirement that 40% of the NPS funding be matched through a combination of funding such as the Deadwood Fund Grant Program and CLG volunteer hours.

Approval of Minutes

The July 18, 2023 Revised Draft Commission Minutes were reviewed. There being no further additions or corrections offered, Sunny Hannum moved, Ted Spencer seconded, that the PFPHPC July 18, 2023, Minutes be approved and distributed as presented. MOTION PASSED

Financial Planning Document Review

Commission members reviewed the PFPHPC Financial Planning Document dated August 11, 2023, and accompanying supporting materials provided to Commission members prior to the meeting by Commission Treasurer Donna Leslie. She noted that there were no changes from the July report, as there had been no payments made, and no invoices received during that time. She reported that the current SHPO grant will be assigned a Budget Expense Category reference number before the next meeting.

Old Business : State/Tribal Grant Email Review

Commission Member Kelli Buscher reported there is nothing of direct Commission interest to report at this time.

NPS Semiquincentennial Grant Program

The Semiquincentennial Grant Program was created by Congress to honor the 250th anniversary of the United States by restoring and preserving eligible sites and structures. Commission Members Kelli Buscher and Ted Spencer reported they are not aware of any eligible projects that would fall under purview of the Commission.

Ft. Pierre Chouteau Bike Path

The Commission reviewed Commission Member Robert Kean's previous report regarding plans by the City of Ft. Pierre to paint a bike path onto Ft. Chouteau Road from the current bike path that runs parallel to Highway 1806 to the fort site.

Van Metre Bridge/Bike Path Grant Information

Commission Member Kelli Buscher reported that there is no update to report regarding a request for a qualified engineer to conduct a structural survey of the Van Metre Bridge to determine its condition and whether the refurbishing effort discussed previously would be cosmetic (i.e., replace railings and planking) or require structural work.

Cedar Hill Cemetery Update Information

President Don Zeller reported he has received a 14-page printed document from historian Ken Stewart with details on individuals buried at Cedar Hill Cemetery. The document is in draft form and is being reviewed by a South Dakota State Archives records archivist. An electronic version will be made available to the Commission at a later date.

Stanley County Jail Sign Replacement

President Don Zeller reported that a sign has been ordered to replace the vandalized sign next to the historic jail in Ft. Pierre, and it will be printed and installed by M&R Signs. Zeller noted that the Commission will be invoiced by M&R Signs. The Commission approved expending up to \$300 from Budget Expense Category #423 for this purpose during the June 20, 2023 meeting.

Meeting Location

During the July 18 meeting, Commission Members had discussed the advantages of conducting future meetings in the Board Room of the Pierre Senior Center, which is a central location for most Commission Members. President Don Zeller reported that the negotiated fee of \$15 per meeting for use of the Board Room can be paid from SHPO grant funds. He noted that invoices will be issued to the Commission twice annually.

MOTION: Kelli Buscher moved, Alan Haarstad seconded, that future Commission meetings be held at the Pierre Senior Center for a fee of \$15 per meeting, with a start date to be determined.
MOTION PASSED.

Verendrye Monument/Ft. Pierre Chouteau Inspection & Sign Replacement

The Commission discussed an email from Commission Member Kean that inspections of the Verendrye Monument and Ft. Pierre Chouteau occurred on June 28 and July 26 as scheduled, to review maintenance and upkeep of the two sites in accordance with the current Memorandum of Agreement with the City of Ft. Pierre, PFPHPC and SHPO. Kean had also informed the Commission by email that the third and final inspection required during the summer of 2023 has been scheduled for Wednesday, August 23 beginning at 4pm at the Verendrye Monument. Commission Members are welcome to participate.

Commission Members Kelli Buscher, Alan Haarstad, Robert Kean and Donna Leslie participated in the July 26 inspection. They were joined by Dr. Jenna Carlson Dietmeier from SHPO and Brett Fergen from the Ft. Pierre Public Utilities Department. The overall appearance of both sites was favorable. During the June inspection, it was noted that a sidewalk has settled in two places at the Verendrye Monument, creating an ADA concern and potential risk of bodily injury if someone were to trip and fall. As requested by Commission Members, a strip of red paint has been applied to both settled places to help alert visitors to the potential hazard until the damaged concrete can be replaced. At the Ft. Pierre Chouteau site, broken blacktop material that was present on the cement pad under the Chouteau in June has been removed and weeds on the walking path had been sprayed.

Previous inspections had noted damaged signage at the Verendrye Monument and Ft. Pierre Chouteau. Extra signage for the Verendrye Monument had been maintained in storage by the City of Ft. Pierre until needed and President Zeller noted that it will be installed to replace the damaged signage at that location. Zeller indicated that M&R Signs will print and install replacements for the damaged signage at Ft. Pierre Chouteau. Zeller said M&R Signs will submit invoices to SHPO for sign printing and installation.

Buscher has compiled reports based on the inspections, containing additional notes about each site.

QR Code/Stickers Update

President Zeller reported he has nearly completed a review of the QR codes on signage to determine which QR code stickers will need to be updated and replaced. It was noted that the Commission had previously voted to allocate up to \$50 from the SHPO grant to cover the costs associated with replacing QR codes on signage in the Pierre/Ft. Pierre communities.

Driving Tour Booklet Map

The Commission discussed revising the color of the location numbers on the map in the Driving Tour booklet of Historic Pierre & Fort Pierre Places (Revised 4/6/2019) to make the numbers easier to read. Commission Member Kelli Buscher, who designed the map, will send Commissioners a sample revised version, using white numbers on a dark background.

Commission Member Sunny Hannum suggested adding another Fort Pierre historic location to the booklet and map: the site where Father Christian Hoecken held the first baptism in Western South Dakota in 1840. Hannum will provide text to Buscher for the booklet. That site would become Number Six on the tour, necessitating a renumbering of the map and text.

New Business : West River History Conference

President Zeller reported that the West River History Conference will be held October 4-6 in Lead, and will include presentations on historical research, as well as guided tours, at a registration cost of \$175 per person.

MOTION: Sunny Hannum moved, Kelli Buscher seconded, that the Commission will use SHPO grant funds to pay for up to three Commission Members to attend the conference, and will reimburse

them for a registration fee of up to \$175 per person, plus mileage, meals and lodging expenses at current allowable rates. MOTION PASSED.

Oahe Chapel Pie Social

Commission Members were advised that the Oahe Chapel Preservation Society has invited the public to a free Pie Social from 1:30 to 3:30 pm on Sunday, September 10, 2023 at the Oahe Chapel.

Air Show

Commission Members were advised that the Let Freedom Fly International Air Show originally planned for 2020 has been rescheduled for May 2024. At the January and February 2020 Commission meetings, the Commission discussed preparing a publication regarding the history of the Pierre airport for distribution to the public at the air show. Mike Isaacs, former airport manager, had provided some material from the airport's history to President Zeller and Commission Member Robert Kean at that time. The project was placed on hold when the air show was postponed. Zeller indicated he and Kean will review the information collected in 2020 and report back to the Commission.

Historic Tour Assistance

Commission Member Sunny Hannum reported she had received two requests for a local person to provide a short presentation on local history in conjunction with upcoming tours: one on September 6, 2024 for a North Dakota Airstream Club, and another on September 27th in conjunction with an SDSU Extension program. President Zeller and Commission Member Ted Spencer indicated they will be available to assist with those programs.

Other: December Meeting Date | Website

Commission Members discussed a reminder from Secretary Robert Kean that the Commission had moved the December meeting to the second Tuesday of the month in prior years to accommodate holiday events and travel that may conflict with a meeting on the regularly-scheduled third Tuesday of the month.

MOTION: Kelli Buscher moved, Sunny Hannum seconded, that the December Commission meeting be scheduled for December 12, 2023. MOTION PASSED

Commission Members discussed a suggestion from Beth Thompson to consider adding the Commission's bylaws to the Historic Preservation Commission website (<https://historicpierrefortpierre.com/>). Commission Members also discussed the need to verify that information on the site is up-to-date, such as ensuring the Commission Member list is current, and noting any known ownership changes in historic properties listed on the site.

Meeting Adjourned

Meeting adjourned at 12:58pm.

NEXT MEETING DATE: Tuesday, September 19, 2023, at 12:00pm, noon at a location to be announced.