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Pierre/Ft. Pierre Historic Preservation Commission September 2021 Minutes

September 21, 2021 meeting at the Log Cabin, Ft. Pierre, SD called to Order by President Hannum at 12:04pm.

In Attendance

President Hannum, Secretary Robert Kean, Donna Leslie, Deb Gates, Kelli Buscher, Alan Haarstad, City of Pierre Representative Matt Elbersen.

Guests: Ted Spencer, SD State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)

Meeting working documents were noted and distributed.

Commission Member Volunteer contributed hours were recorded.

Approval of Minutes

The August 17, 2021 Revised Draft Commission Minutes were reviewed. There being no further additions or correction, Alan Haarstad moved, Deb Gates seconded that the August 17, 2021 Minutes be approved as presented. Motion passed.

Financial Planning Document Review

Commission Members reviewed the PFPHPC Financial Planning Document dated September 21, 2021 previously provided to the Commission Members by Commission Treasurer Kelly Waage. In addition, Treasurer Waage provided an updated Expired Grant report noting that a previous outstanding obligation carried in a previous document has in fact been satisfied. The ensuing discussion noted that the Financial Planning Document reflected the concluding payments associated with the Donovan Sprague speaking engagement in August 2021 including sound system support, a display/informational sign and transportation. It was further noted that transportation costs were lower than expected. In addition, it was noted that the reprinting costs of the Pierre Historic Homes booklet to be discussed later in the meeting was previously approved, and that that budget line item will support additional activity.

New Business: Upcoming Sign Considerations

During the annual PFPHPC conducted Verendrye Monument site inspection this summer, it was noted that the two explanatory signs at the site were degrading due to natural occurring weathering. Their current condition requires replacement. When the replacement signs are ready, the City of Ft. Pierre will move the two signposts from their present location that is surrounded by grass to a location nearer to the sidewalk to allow for easier access and viewing. A review of similar signs purchased by PFPHPC indicate that replacement will be in the \$280 maximum range per sign.

MOTION: After discussion and the Commission agreeing that replacing the two signs was warranted, Donna Leslie moved, Alan Haarstad seconded that up to \$280 per sign be expended from Budget Expense Category 423 to replace the two signs at the Verendrye Monument. Motion passed.

President Hannum provided an update on the two-story wall mural project being undertaken at the Hopscotch Bar in Ft. Pierre. The panorama style mural will consist of three panels depicting scenes representative of the area's history and heritage. The wall has been cleaned, prepared and the background surface painted. The effort is being underwritten by several entities and the current owner of the building. President Hannum stated that there also is interest in refurbishing two additional building faces in downtown Ft. Pierre that have iconic signs painted on their side-walls; a former hardware store and the Pepsi Cola sign on a former hotel. Ted Spencer from the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) shared that the Deadwood Historic Preservation Office had a great deal of expertise in mural preservation and would be a good resource to contact about techniques.

SHPO Commitment

The annual PFPHPC site inspection of the Ft. Pierre Chouteau also revealed that the 5 explanatory signs describing the history and significance of the site were deteriorating because of weather and need replacement. Ted Spencer from the State Historic Preservation Office presented background information on the signs and shared a flash drive containing sign information including their development, content and design. He stated that SHPO will assist with the costs related to the effort. The Commission will continue to pursue the signs replacement and provide updates at future meetings.

Old Business: Cedar Hill Cemetery

The Cedar Hill Cemetery Committee toured the cemetery on September 12 and with the assistance of Jeff Mortenson worked to locate and confirm grave sites utilizing available historical documentation and anecdotal information. The Mortenson family subsequently also provided an expanded map of the cemetery with demarcated grave sites. The Mortenson family is also applying a computer program that will put specific names with the actual grave sites. The size of the map, potential scope of the historical material and amount of detail available will present a challenge to the Commission's goal of developing a concise "walking tour" booklet of the cemetery. President Hannum updated the Commission regarding information received from Mr. Ken Stewart. Mr. Stewart, who is working on the Cedar Hill Cemetery booklet narrative reported by email that he was attempting to finish "a new revised Cedar Hill Cemetery booklet" by September 23. This effort will be updated as it progresses.

Reprinting Pierre Historic Homes Booklet

Commission Member Kelli Buscher reported on the completion of the cover design of the Pierre Historic Homes booklet and offered further format suggestions. After reviewing and comparing the covers of booklets done to date, discussion ensued on the style and format of covers for the expanding booklet series and the goal of establishing and maintaining a uniform look and theme.

MOTION: After discussion and the Commission agreeing to the goal of a uniform look that will be appealing in card/booklet racks, Deb Gates moved, Kelli Buscher seconded that the Pierre Historic Homes booklet will follow the previous format of having the organizational logo in the center of the booklet and the name of the booklet in the upper area (title block). Motion passed.

It was noted that the cost of reprinting the Pierre Historic Homes booklet was previously passed by motion at the June 2021 Commission meeting. Commission Member Kelli Buscher will coordinate with the printer to complete the printing.

Verendrye & Ft. Pierre Chouteau Site Inspections

Commission Members Kelli Buscher and Robert Kean updated the Commission on the third and final upkeep and maintenance inspection visit conducted on August 26, 2021 at the Verendrye Monument and Ft. Pierre Chouteau. The inspection completed the contractual obligation of the Commission for the 2021 contract period with the City of Ft. Pierre. The sites remained well maintained with the grass cut, waste removed, no bottle/paper litter and the flags in good condition. The deteriorating condition of the signs were previously noted and is being addressed (see above – New Business: Upcoming Sign Considerations; SHPO Commitment). Previously noted brush abatement work has not been completed as of the date of the last inspection visit. The Commission will convey its inspection reports to the Mayor of Ft. Pierre with explanatory comments on findings and items still needing completion.

Other: PFPHPC Term Limits

President Hannum provided a handout setting out the current Members terms of office.

October Officer Election

Commission Members were informed that the annual election of Commission Officers will take place during the October Commission meeting. It was noted that all Officer positions will be voted upon.

Oahe Chapel

Ted Spencer invited Commission Members to visit the Oahe Chapel located at the east side on top of Oahe Dam. The Chapel has undergone an extensive restoration effort including foundation, windows, siding and roof. The results are impressive and greatly add to the setting.

Meeting Adjourned

President Hannum adjourned the meeting at 12:55pm

NEXT MEETING DATE: Tuesday, October 19, 2021 in person at the Log Cabin in Ft. Pierre, SD.