

Historic Preservation Commission
Minutes of Regular Meeting
March 5, 2020 at 10:00am
215 D Street, Lewiston, ID 83501

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Michelle Bly called the meeting to order at 10:02am.

Present: Chair Michelle Bly
Commissioners' Vikky Ross, Dennis Ohrtman (10:03), Patti Brockman,
Ged Randall, (10:40), Leah Boots, Pro Tem Kathy Schroeder

Apologies: Vice Chair Brett Gile, Commissioners' Patrick Showers and Greg Follett

Staff Present: Jacqui Gilbert, Joel Plaskon

1. Welcome & Introduction, New Commissioners

Chair Bly welcomed Leah Boots and Ged Randall to the commission and thanked them for filling the two vacancies stating it was great to have them onboard. Commissioner Boots provided the commission an overview of her background and passion for Historic Preservation. Commissioner Randall provided an overview of his background which includes time on the Lewiston City Council and his work on family genealogy. The commissioners' present introduced themselves.

2. Approval of Minutes, Regular Meeting – February 6, 2020

Commissioner's Ohrtman and Randall made a motion and seconded to approve the minutes of February 6, 2020, as written. The minutes were approved 6-0.

II. CITIZEN COMMENTS

There were none.

III. NEW BUSINESS

1. Certificate of Appropriateness for Normal Hill Heritage Overlay – 707 7th Avenue – Remove Upper Concrete Landing, Resurface Steps, Construct New Steps to Sidewalk Level.

Chair Bly read the Certificate of Appropriateness agenda item request for the commission to consider. Staff introduced the project to the commission, providing that the applicant is addressing safety issues to the steps leading into the building which includes the substandard cement on the landing areas. The work being proposed will be to remediate the safety issues and provide for safer access to the building. Commissioner Ohrtman shared that there is no support walking up and down the step/landing area as people are

freelancing. Tyler Houston who is the contractor for the project joined the meeting and explained that the project is in two phases. The south side entrance to the building being worked on firstly with the west side entrance being done at a later time, so that one entrance will be clear of construction work.

Commissioner Boots asked if concrete would be the material used in the repair work to the steps and whether the step would be beveled to match existing. Mr. Houston provided that half of the existing step would be cut away and he would try to bevel the step so that it matches the existing steps; the new steps would have the bevel edge. The columns on the landing areas that are made with brick would be removed and leveled; the bricks will be kept. A handrail will be added to extend the existing handrail. The concrete landing area will be graded back with a new step being added and the landing resurfaced. An extra step from the sidewalk will be added to step onto the newly graded landing area.

Chair Bly directed the commission to the review sheet that staff provide to see what factors had been met.

Commissioners Ohrtman and Randall made a motion and seconded, that the project was found to be compliant for a Certificate of Appropriateness as section 37-41B.3 Factors 1,4,5 and 6 of the Lewiston City Code for the south and west elevations had been met. The west elevation will be done at a later time, so that one entrance to the building is available without construction going on. The motion was approved 6-0.

2. 2020 Orchid Awards

Chair Bly informed those present that at the 2019 Orchid Awards debrief, the commission had discussed conducting the Orchid Awards biennial due to the amount of work that is involved and changing the month to coincide with the State Historic Preservation Month which is May.

Commissioner Ross provided an overview to the new commissioners of the work that is involved.

There was further discussion about the pros and cons of having the Orchid Awards biennial in May and it becoming more of value when aligning with the State Orchid Award program, although some commissioners were apprehensive about whether it would phase out or lose its emphasis. Commissioner Brockman was in favor of moving the Orchid Award to May 2021, although the commission should think about putting out some notices so people know that it has been moved and why.

Staff recommended that the commission have a subcommittee that would work on planning out a timeline for a May 2021, event with the steps and information required

Commissioner Ross made a motion to move the Orchid Awards to a biennial event, starting May 2021 and requested a subcommittee be formed at the next meeting of the

HPC for planning purposes. Commissioner Randall seconded the motion and the motion was approved 6-0.

Staff will reach out to the sponsor, P1FCU, to inform them of what the commissions plans are.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

1. Update on the Environmental Review for the Water Treatment Accessory Building.

Chair Bly provided the commission with an update stating that this was due to the buildings being 50 years and older, with the funding sources being federal and therefore requiring an environmental review. The outcome of the meeting is a summary that DEQ and Mountain Waterworks would develop providing a memorandum of understanding agreement with the city that would itemize what pre-approved mitigation measures are for the project, such as a sign or a collage of photographs that preserve the historical record of the building(s) being demolished. A review of the document will be conducted by Chair Bly by the end of the week.

Chair Bly reported that SHPO were pleased that the Lewiston HPC were in attendance at the meeting; it seemed to mean a lot.

Staff to reach out to Public Works project manager, Alannah Bailey, to ask when would be a good time for a photographer to visit the site to take pictures.

2. Sidewalk Vaults.

Council Liaison Mayor Pro Tem Schroeder provided the commission with an update of a conversation she had had with the City Manager regarding the sidewalk vaults and the Main Street upgrade project. A suggestion would be to request a work session for October on the subject, as it is a very complex issue.

Chair Bly wanted to know how does the commission help and should they be waiting until the October work session with council? The commission further discussed the vault(s) usage, education, direction to keep this on the forefront and requested staff to continue placing the subject on the agenda for discussion.

Chair Bly suggested that as the commission has not been in front of city council for a while, maybe provide council with an update and also to remind them of the work plan the commission is focused on which includes the sidewalk vaults. Chair Bly requested staff to seek a work session date to get on the city council agenda for May or June and to add to the commission's agenda for next month's quarterly council talking points presentation.

Mayor Pro Tem Schroeder left the meeting at 11:15am

4. Historic District – Boundary Increase Newsletter

This item was tabled to the next meeting of the commission. Staff to circulate the newsletter template to the commission for content building.

Chair Bly requested staff include the list of commission projects be added to the next commission agenda for discussion.

5. Chapter 19.5 Historic District, Re-write

Staff Plaskon joined the meeting at 11:20am

Staff Plaskon provided that he wanted to get this back on the agenda as it had been awhile. A lot of work has already been done although there is still a lot to be done. The expansion of the historic district had been updated in the code regarding the boundary area only. An outside attorney worked on the rewrite and provided a product although there is still a way to go. There is a priority at the staff level to complete this rewrite. This will be a staff project predominately that will need to be reviewed by the commission as staff works through the process. Staff will identify a scope of work of what needs to be done to complete, in terms of the amount of work and the type of work. The work will be split into two categories, the technical work that Staff Gilbert and/or Staff Plaskon can do versus the lesser amount in terms of the legal in nature regarding interpretation and state code that could impact our code.

Chair Bly stated that for the commission this was informational advice and that until the work is completed by staff they would not be focusing on this until it's back on the table for their review.

There was discussion of the content, timings of when the meetings are held, process the commission follows and when a certificate of appropriateness is required including the updated guidance from The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties.

Staff Plaskon shared that there could be several iterations before the code is ready for the commission to review and provide comments, approve and move through the city council process to adopt. Chair Bly requested staff leave on the agenda for the next meeting for discussion and for the commission to provide Staff Gilbert with any comments they may have.

V. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Ross shared that an invitation has been provided by the American Queen Steamboat Company to come to a meet and greet at the Quality Inn & Suites, regarding the LC Valley Economic Impact and Community Relations Event on March 12, at 3pm to 4:30pm; all are invited.

Commissioner Randall shared with the Commission that there also was a Needs Assessment Study underway to look at the economic impact to the valley regarding the cruise ship industry.

Commissioner Ohrtman shared the NPC Historical Society is planning to rebuild the wall in front of the Heritage House and have secured funding. Also, the lot to the east side of the museum - a site plan is being developed to move the Territorial Capitol over to the museum campus. Further, a grant has been received for media work on the Liberty Theater for the lobby area and two exterior cases.

VI. STAFF COMMENTS

Staff circulated timesheets to the commission requesting completed ones to be returned.

Also, informed the commission that Community Development is funding the Historic Lewiston Walking Tour Map for an update and reprinting by Printcraft in Lewiston.

VII. ADJOURN

Commissioners' Brockman and Randall made a motion and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 11:54am. The motion was approved 6-0 to adjourn.