

May 6, 2021

The HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION met in the City Hall West Conference Room at 1134 "F" Street and via Zoom Meeting (video conferencing) Service (app). Chair Bly called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m.

Historic Preservation meetings are recorded live. To view the full video, go to <https://livestream.com/lewiston> and select City Events/Miscellaneous Events.

I. CALL TO ORDER

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Dennis Ohrtman (in person); Ed King (in person); Linnea Noreen (in person) Brett Gile (in person); Michelle Bly, Chair (in person); Ged Randall (Zoom) Vikky Ross (ZOOM);

COMMISSIONERS EXCUSED: Greg Follett, Vice Chair; Leah Boots

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: Joel Plaskon, City Planner (ZOOM); Aaron Butler, IT (ZOOM); Katie Hollingshead, Assistant Planner (in person); Dustin Johnson, Public Works Director (Zoom)

CITY COUNCIL LIAISON PRESENT: None

GUESTS: Pete L'Orange, SHPO; Mike Tatko, Avista; Nate Von Lindern, Avista; Kim Casey, Avista

II. APPROVAL OF APRIL 1, 2021 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Commissioner's Noreen and Ohrtman moved and seconded, respectively, approval of the April 1, 2021 minutes. The motion carried 7-0.

III. CITIZEN COMMENTS

None.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

1. CERTIFIED LOCAL GOVERNMENT EVALUATION WITH SHPO:

Staff Hollingshead briefly reviewed the evaluation form that had been submitted to the State Historic Preservation Office as part of the Certified Local Government review. Staff Hollingshead introduced SHPO representative Pete L'Orange and asked

him to give an overview of the review and any suggestions that SHPO had for the Commission. Mr. L'Orange applauded the City of Lewiston for their commitment to preservation and having a dedicated staff person assigned to the Commission. Mr. L'Orange said that the suggestions from SHPO for this review are for the Commission to pursue some additional training in regards to Certificate of Appropriateness review and that the Commission consider pursuing additional surveys of areas for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. Commissioner's discussed training and asked Mr. L'Orange some clarifying questions regarding CLG grant applications and monies awarded.

V. OLD BUSINESS

1. **EXEMPTION OF CERTAIN ABOVE GROUND UTILITY STRUCTURES FROM CERTIFICATES OF APPROPRIATENESS (Action Item):** Staff Plaskon reviewed the information that had been discussed at the previous meetings and what was included in the amendment and reminded the Commission that there are approximately 1500 above ground utility structures in the West End Historic District and if 5% of those items required work and thus a Certificate of Appropriateness that could result in 76 additional reviews for the Commission to complete each year. Nate Von Lindern from Avista walked the Commission through Avista's process of submitting a permit to the City for work in the Right of Way. Usually the permit is granted within a day or two and work is done within a week. Dustin Johnson, Public Works Director for the City, said that most of the work that Avista is doing is covered in the franchise agreement and that the Public Works Department is more concerned with the impact on residents through closed streets or sidewalks and not the value of the equipment being replaced. Director Johnson also stated that the Public Works Department does not have the staff time to track the assets of the various utility providers to be able to provide the Commission with the information they would need to conduct Certificate of Appropriateness reviews on every repair or replacement that might happen in the right of way. Commissioner Randall mentioned that the Commission needed to consider the time required by Idaho State Statute regarding the open meetings law and notification time required for Commission meetings when reviewing applications for Certificates of Appropriateness. Commissioner Randall encouraged his fellow commissioners to be mindful of the timeliness needed for utility providers to complete their work. Mike Tatko with Avista asked the Commission to explain to him the Certificate of Appropriateness review process and Chair Bly walked him through the Commissions process. Discussion ensued between Commissioner's regarding what was appropriate for review and what was appropriate for exemption

and how to encourage a cooperative spirit between entities. The Commission thanked the Avista representatives for their assistance and for answering questions. Commissioner Noreen asked for some clarification on the difference between each of the exemptions and Staff Plaskon provided clarification. Commissioner Ohrtman moved that the HPC accept the amendments as proposed and recommend approval to the City Council, Commissioner Gile seconded. Motion carried 7-0.

2. **PRIORITIES PLAN:** Staff Hollingshead told the Commissioner's that Commissioner Randal had wanted to discuss a couple of items to be added to the Priorities Plan and asked Commissioner Randal to expand. Commissioner Randal said that he had been interested in adding the Hurlburt Mansion and the Normal Hill Cemetery survey and nomination but both those items appear to be mute at this point. Commissioner Ohrtman asked if the Cemetery might be instead added as a volunteer project for the Commissioners. Staff Hollingshead said that she had reached out to Tim Barker, Parks and Rec Director and had asked him to discuss the idea of how the HPC might be able to help the Urban Forestry/Cemetery Commission with the Cemetery. The Urban Forestry/Cemetery Commission had met on April 28th and Staff Hollingshead will follow up with Director Barker and see if one of the commissioners can attend the next HPC meeting.
3. **CLEARWATER MEMORIAL BRIDGE MITIGATION:** Staff Hollingshead directed the Commission to review the Memorandum of Agreement that had been prepared between the Federal Highway Administration/Idaho Transportation Department and SHPO. There is a five (5) year window for the three (3) projects to be completed and the HPC will review the appropriate projects as they are started. Commissioner Ohrtman asked if the projects were open ended. Staff Hollingshead reviewed the three (3) stipulations that had been agreed to. Chair Bly reviewed the information that had been provided at the meeting.

- VI. **COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:** Commissioner King discussed his thoughts on the Anne Bolinger Building. Commissioner Ohrtman said that he had quite a bit of experience with the building because of his involvement with the Civic Theatre and told the Commission some of the history of the building from when the Civic Theatre purchased it from the Methodist Church and the repairs that had been done and those that had been delayed and the general history of the fundraising efforts to pay for things to maintain the building. Commissioner Ohrtman said that fundraising efforts have always been stunted because of a lack of purpose for the building. He pointed out the

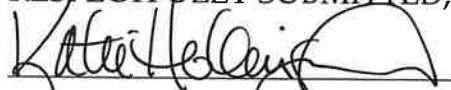
lack of dedicated parking and the lack of space for all the Civic Theatre's activities (practice space as well as performance space) being major factors. The Commission then discussed other ways that the memory of the building could be preserved if the City does decide on demolition. The Commission also discussed projects that the Commission should be taking on versus projects that individual Commissioners might want to champion in their private lives. Commissioner Noreen asked that the Normal Hill Heritage Overlay Zone expansion/Historic District be added to the next agenda for discussion.

VII. **STAFF-COMMISSION COMMUNICATIONS:** Staff Hollingshead asked the Commission if they would like to hold the SHPO training during the regular June meeting or if they wanted to hold special work session just for the training. The Commission expressed they would like to have the training during the regular meeting. Staff Hollingshead said that she would also have new review sheets that reflected the change to the Secretary of Interior's standards for review. Staff Hollingshead also let the Commission know that this would be the last Zoom meeting and that future meetings would be in person and that by the end of the summer that meetings would move back to the Bell Building.

VIII. **ADJOURN**

There being no further business, Chair Bly adjourned the meeting of the Historic Preservation Commission at approximately 11:34 a.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,



Katie Hollingshead

Recording Secretary



Chairperson or Acting Chairperson

Historic Preservation Commission

Approved this 5TH day of AUGUST, 2021.