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Pierre/Ft. Pierre Historic Preservation Commission September 2023 Minutes

*September 19, 2023, meeting at the Pierre Senior Center, 401 West Pleasant Drive, Pierre, SD 57501
Meeting called to Order by President Zeller at 12:10pm.*

In Attendance

Commission Members: President Don Zeller, Treasurer Donna Leslie, Secretary Robert Kean, Kelli Buscher, Sunny Hannum, Ted Spencer, Beth Thompson

Guests:

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

Commission Members Volunteer Hours were recorded.

Commission Member Sunny Hannum noted that her membership on the Commission will expire at the end of September. Commission Members thanked her for her many hours of dedicated service and numerous contributions to the success of the Commission's efforts in the Pierre/Ft. Pierre communities during her multiple terms. With Hannum's departure, the Commission has a vacancy for an additional member residing in Ft. Pierre.

Approval of Minutes

The August 15, 2023, Revised Draft Commission Minutes were reviewed. There being no further additions or corrections offered, Sunny Hannum moved, Beth Thompson seconded that the PFPHPC August 15, 2023, Minutes be approved and distributed as presented. MOTION PASSED

Financial Planning Document Review

Commission Members reviewed the PFPHPC Financial Planning Document dated September 15, 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 Travel Form to be used by Commission Members attending the West River History Conference. Also included was a detailed recap of changes from the August financial report including the addition of a new budget line within the Education budget category to reflect costs related to the West River History Conference and a new budget line within the Program Administration budget category to reflect costs related to ongoing meeting room costs. In addition, the recap included the updated SHPO grant Budget Category code (#444) assigned for financial reporting purposes for this fiscal year.

Old Business : State & Tribal Grant Email Review

Commission members, on an ongoing basis, review numerous communicated potential grant related items from a wide variety of sources for relevant opportunities to pursue within the mission goals of the Commission. Items of potential interest are brought to the Commission's attention for discussion and possible action. President Zeller shared information on an upcoming webinar presentation being offered by the National Alliance of Preservation Commissions (NAPC). The webinar is designed to assist preservation commissions to develop a preservation course and effective outreach and education models that would be of interest to realtors and land developers in local communities. The webinar information notes, "The success of local preservation often begins with these (realtor) professionals." Commission discussion followed regarding developing and offering training opportunities directed at the realtor/developer trade to generate interest in historic preservation. Commission Member Spencer noted that the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) has provided workshops to realtor groups in the state, usually with a cost sharing arrangement with other organizations. The Commission could use its SHPO grant funds to sponsor a locally focused effort if it decides to pursue this effort. Commission Members agreed to keep this type of activity in mind as it looked to develop and consider further efforts/projects.

Bike Path & VanMetre Bridge Grant Information

Bike Path: Commission Member Kean reported that white lines setting out a bike path on both sides of Ft. Chouteau Road have been painted onto the road surface from where the current bike path paralleling Highway 1806 crosses Ft. Chouteau Road to the entrance to the Chouteau site. While the bike path marking effort is completed, there is continuing interest to update the sign located on the south side of Ft. Chouteau Road where the bike path paralleling Highway 1806 crosses the Ft. Chouteau Road with more information on the Chouteau site and correct spelling.

VanMetre Bridge: President Zeller provided an overview of the engineer's inspection report of the VanMetre Bridge located on the Ft. Pierre bike path between Waldron Street and Rousseau Avenue. The inspection report was prepared by an engineer with the requisite training, qualifications, and professional experience. The report notes that overall, the truss supports of the bridge are described as being in "good condition for its age." Minor bends in the tension members are attributed to possible overweight loads and environmental factors such as ice and debris in its former location. The bridge decking is timber planks and its condition is described as varied with approximately half the planks having "severe splitting, checking and cracking." The bridge railing is described as in "poor condition." The report recommends that the railing and half of the deck planks be replaced. The replacement planks should be treated, high grade bridge quality timber. An itemized \$89,300 repair cost estimate accompanied the report. Commission Members further discussed strategies for moving forward. It was noted that the engineer who prepared the inspection report was interested and willing to further assist with the repair effort. Commission Member Hannum noted that the Ft. Pierre Public Works Director advised to seek a grant for the entire amount of repair rather than approaching the repair in a piecemeal fashion. Previous Commission discussions regarding submitting a grant to the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (GF&P) office for the cost of repairs was noted. Commission Members agreed to continue exploring the GF&P grant opportunity. President Zeller will provide the inspection report to Commission Members. Commission

Member Buscher will review the GF&P grant application details and report back to the Commission.

Cedar Hill Cemetery Information

President Zeller reported that the Cedar Hill Cemetery Board was meeting on September 21, 2023, to review Ken Stewart's research on the identification and location of cemetery gravesites. Once the identification and location of the gravesites are concluded, it is presumed that Doug Mortensen will continue with his undertaking of preparing a webpage with the most current information. The status of an additional professional survey of the Cedar Hill Cemetery that was previously mentioned by Doug Mortensen to the Commission is not clear.

Commission Member Hannum noted that there is interest in a new informational sign at the Scotty Phillip's Cemetery in Ft. Pierre.

QR Code/Sticker Update

President Zeller reported the QR Code/Sticker Update review is completed, and the information is at M&R Signs to be printed. Once printed, they will be posted to their respective locations in the Pierre/Ft. Pierre communities.

President Zeller further reported the replacement informational signs at the Ft. Pierre Chouteau have been installed. They were placed over and secured to the existing signs. Replacement was necessary due to the extensive weathering to the previous signs. In addition, the insecure signpost noted during this summer's Chouteau site inspections has also been fixed.

Driving Tour Booklet Corrections & Reorder

Commission Members discussed the final changes to the Pierre/Ft. Pierre Driving Tour booklet in preparation for another printing.

MOTION: Kelli Buscher moved, Ted Spencer seconded, that up to \$2,500.00 dollars be expended from Budget Category #444 for the reprinting of the Pierre/Ft. Pierre Driving Tour booklet.
MOTION PASSED

Verendrye Monument/Ft. Pierre Chouteau Inspection

Commission Member Kean reported the third of three annual inspection tours of the Verendrye Monument and Ft. Pierre Chouteau was completed on August 23, 2023. An inspection of the maintenance and upkeep of these sites is required during the months on June, July, and August in accordance with a current Memorandum of Agreement with the City of Ft. Pierre, PFPHPC and the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). Representatives from these entities make up the inspection team. Reports of the monthly inspections are prepared and distributed to the participants and a summary report is prepared for the Mayor of Ft. Pierre. This effort is completed for this fiscal year.

New Business : Western History Conference

Commission Members Spencer and Zeller are planning on attending the Western History Conference at Lead, SD on October 4-6, 2023.

Archeological Sites West of Ft. Pierre

Commission Member Hannum shared a question she received regarding locating information on significant archeological sites located west of Ft. Pierre, SD. Commission Member Spencer suggested contacting SHPO as a possible source for cultural resource data.

Extension Tour

Commission Members Spencer and Zeller will assist with a tour of historic sites in the Pierre/Ft. Pierre area during a South Dakota State University Extension program visit on September 27, 2023.

Commission November Meeting

Commission Members discussed moving the date of its November meeting to the second Tuesday of the month to accommodate Thanksgiving events and travel that may conflict with a meeting on the regularly scheduled third Tuesday of the month. A decision will be made at the Commission's October meeting.

Meeting Adjourned

Meeting adjourned at 12:58pm.

NEXT MEETING DATE: Tuesday, October 17, 2023, at 12pm noon at the Pierre Senior Center, 401 West Pleasant Drive, Pierre, SD 57501