

HISTORICAL BUILDINGS AND SITES COMMISSION

MEETING MINUTES

November 17, 2016 – 6:00 P.M.

Courtyard Conference Room

A. ROLL CALL:

The Historical Buildings and Sites Commission met in regular session on the above date with Chair Ward Warren presiding. Vice Chair Dan McBerty and Commissioners Arden McConnell, Shirley Holzinger, and Kathy Marshbank were present. City Council Liaison Dennis Roler was also present. Representing the City staff was Parks & Community Development (hereafter: PCD) Planner Justin Gindlesperger.

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- **October 20, 2016**

Commissioner Marshbank noted the discussion regarding OnlineAuction.com relating to businesses that are gone but still have signage was missing from the minutes. Due to a malfunction in the recording equipment, this item was left out.

MOTION/VOTE

Vice Chair McBerty moved and Commissioner Holzinger seconded the motion to approve the minutes from October 20, 2016 with noted missing remarks. The vote resulted as follows: “AYES”: Chair Warren, and Commissioners McConnell, and Marshbank.

“NAYS”: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Commissioner Ford.

The motion passed.

C. Committee Goals 2017 discussion.

- Chair Warren discussed the 2016 goal deadline of November 30 and having concrete goals established at this meeting.
- Greater online presence. Social media was addressed as well as a greater online presence for the HBSC and the Historic District on the City website. Chair Warren would like to talk to Jon Bowen. Noted were numerous mentions of tourism on the City website but nothing about the Historic District. Commission agreed.

- Commissioner Marshbank also noted focus seems to point away from Grants Pass and not to encourage people to come to Grants Pass. Commission requests assistance from City staff for a great online presence through the website and social media. Commission supports this goal.
- Jon Bowen joined the meeting and discussion.
- Commission would like to know what the City's social media policy is. Planner Gindlesperger suggested speaking with Karen Frerk in admin as to the policies regarding social media. Chair Warren stated he would speak with Karen. Mr. Bowen mentioned that the City prefers to not have each committee/commissions with a social media presence. The Commission supports this goal but would like additional information from City Administration.
- Mr. Bowen is creating an online map with a section for the Historic District.
- Commissioner Holzinger has created an electronic listing with all the historic building information that can be formatted any way the Commission prefers. There are 30 listings.
- More murals in the Historic District. Discussion of the goal of having more murals in the Historic District and having a local historical significance. They will work with the Committee on Public Art (CoPA) as well. Funding is an issue the City Council will have to discuss and there needs to be a policy.
- There was discussion of the artist that painted the Redwood Tower building. Artist unknown at this point. Commission supports the goal of having more murals in the Historic District that have historical significance.
- Promotion of the Historic District (informational printed maps, plaques and signs) on historic buildings. Funding will have to be discussed but showing the City Council that this is of importance to this commission. The Commission supports this goal.
- Pursue grants with CLG (Certified Local Government) designation (grant funding for buildings in the Historic District). The SHPO (State Historic Preservation Office) website has grant programs available for building façades of up to \$20,000. Commission supports the goal of partnering with SHPO to pursuing grants for buildings in the Historic District.
- Commissioner McBerty questioned if the goal should be to pursue the CLG designation?

- Commissioner Warren would like the goal to include pursuing grants in the wording as well.
- Planner Gindlesperger asked if those grants for the Historic District are under the CLG and is there a match required?
- Commissioner Warren noted there is a match required and read under the CLG “the CLG program offers matching grants to cities and counties that have been certified as ‘Historic Preservations Partners’ with both the state and federal governments. These grants can be used for a wide range of preservation projects including national register nominations, historic resource surveys, preservation education, preservation code development, building restoration and preservation planning. Between \$65,000 and \$200,000 is available per year depending on federal allocation and state priorities. Your local government must be a CLG to apply”.
- Planner Gindlesperger noted that the CLG designation can be a separate goal and there are a few steps that Grants Pass needs to complete prior and one is a Code update and staff is waiting on the DLCD (Department of Land Conservation and Development) which should happen at the beginning of the year once the rule making session at the DLCD is complete. Hopefully there won’t be too much opposition then pursuing the local government status can be started right away. He suggested grant research can also be started.
- Commissioner Warren stated perhaps they should have pursuing grants as a separate goal. Pursue grants for historic preservation wherever available preferably with City assistance. Commission agreed the goal could be to simply pursue grants preferably with City assistance.
- Commissioner McConnell mentioned if we reach out to get grants other than from the City too; I don’t want it to get it stopped at just the City so we don’t leave out everyone else.
- Continue to update and expand the local landmark list. Commissioner McConnell added that this commission will be working on landmarks and updating the inventory. This was also a goal for 2015. The Commission supports this goal.
- Commissioner Holzinger mentioned that some landmark building owners don’t wish their buildings to be landmarks so they don’t have to get approval for what they do to the building, such as paint color. Commissioner Warren

mentioned that until we get guidelines in place, the Commission cannot do anything about those types of situations.

- Planner Gindlesperger will type up these goals and get them to the commissioners for review before they go to City Council.

MOTION/VOTE

Chair Warren moved and Commissioner McConnell seconded the motion to approve the 2016 Goals as presented and discussed. The vote resulted as follows: “AYES”: Vice Chair McBerty, and Commissioners McConnell, Holzinger, and Marshbank. “NAYS”: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Commissioner Ford.

The motion passed.

D. Items from Staff.

- Commissioner McConnell and Chair Warren worked on a letter to send to the landmark owners requesting approval to include them. Chair Warren read this draft letter. Wording in the letter included the benefits of being included as a landmark, what a landmark definition is and a few other suggestions. Commissioners would like the letter to go out soon.
- The definition of a landmark was discussed.
- Planner Gindlesperger noted there is a definition of landmark in the Development Code.
- The Elks Lodge just was purchased by Justin and Tanya Pitts. Discussion about building location being too close to the residential zone to use the building for adult use. Chair Warren suggested waiting to see what their intent is with the building before possibly including it as a landmark if the new owners are interested.
- Commissioner McConnell mentioned this building was built in 1950 as a mid-century modern building. At the time it was considered the place to go for clubbing and the only game in town. Commission agreed to hold off on decision at this point.
- Mid-Century Modern. Commissioner McConnell spoke about mid-century modern being very popular currently. She mentioned it is time to start incorporating this into the Historic Commission. The shopping center on G

Street could be added and promoted, as an example. Chair Warren suggested a list be created on these buildings. The Commission agreed.

- Recap of the goals are: Online presence, murals, promoting the Historic District, pursuing grants, CLG designation, and landmarks.

E. Items from Public

- None.

F. Items from Staff

- Planner Gindlesperger mentioned the Redwood Empire is delayed until the new City Hall sign is up and approved then the Redwood Empire sign will be done.
- Dave Reeves is also working on signage with ODOT for the Historic District. Commissioner McBerty noted the new signs on the Parkway.
- Planner Gindlesperger requests items for the next agenda by December 6.

E. Items from Commissioners

- Commissioner McConnell mentioned she would like to discuss adding plaques on historic bordellos. She would like feedback on this issue. She believes there are 10 or 12 of them. She will obtain a list.

F. Adjournment

- Meeting was adjourned at 7:33 pm

Next meeting: December 15, 2016.

These minutes were prepared by Donna Anderson, Administration Department, City of Grants Pass.