

## Gunnison County Historic Preservation Commission

Regular Meeting – October 18, 2023

Members Present: LeeAnn Mick, Lynn Card, Al Caniff, Heather Thiessen-Reily, Jody Reeser, David Russell

Others Present: Val Merritt, Townes Bakke, Mike Pelletier (staff)

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Jody opened the meeting. LeeAnn (2<sup>nd</sup> Lynn) made a motion to approve minutes from September. It was approved unanimously.

Heather introduced the new student intern, Val Merritt. She also reported no new news regarding an application designating Butch Clark's house and technical fixes for the walking tour app.

LeeAnn told the group that Community Church would like to put up a sign for Webster Hall. She is looking for a good old photo of the building and she is working with Off Center Designs on the sign. The group discussed the style of the building and how buildings in Gunnison generally have variation from established styles. The significant role of women in local building architecture is an interesting story that the HPC should consider telling. Townes said he is researching Webster Hall for the walking tour and could share what he finds for potential use on the sign.

Heather told the group she suggested to Western Colorado University library staff that they consider partnering with the County on archiving and scanning historic documents. She also said in November she's hoping to spend more time with students researching Somerset history and doing oral interviews. Val and Towns have been researching old newspapers for Somerset topics.

David told the group that he just needs a photo of Polly and Lee for the agricultural significance award. LeeAnn said she is working on getting one from the family. Heather said she may have access to one.

Jodie asked the group to discuss whether the alteration controls for designated structures should be loosened in order to encourage more listings. The group, in general, thought yes because it would further the goals of the commission. It was suggested that adding more certainty to the process, regardless of who is on the commission, would be beneficial. Examples of what complies would help, notably with windows and solar. It was suggested to make the application more user friendly and Al mentioned that idea of doing a promotional effort, something akin to Garden of the Week to encourage pride in protecting buildings. Jodie said she would connect with Lindsey at the State for good regulatory language examples.

Heather (2<sup>nd</sup> Jodie) made a motion to use the gifted funds to pay for the Webster Hall sign. It passed unanimously.

Lynn said she will be leaving town for six months and has decided to retire from the HPC. The board congratulated her and was very appreciative of all her years of service. She said her time on the HPC has been enjoyable and that she will work on getting her cemetery info to the library.

Meeting adjourned at about 6:30.