

Gunnison County Historic Preservation Commission

Regular Meeting – November 15, 2023

Members Present: LeeAnn Mick, Al Caniff, Jody Reeser, David Russell

Others Present: Val Merritt, Townes Bakke

Jody opened the meeting. LeeAnn (2nd Al) made a motion to approve minutes with the edit that Jody's name is spelled incorrectly and should be corrected. It was approved unanimously.

LeeAnn requested an update on the history research of Webster Hall. Townes presented a brief history, but it was determined he found Mr. Webster as associated with the old Webster Gunnison Hotel on Main St. instead of the Webster Hall information. Al told the group that he heard a verbal history from a deceased elder of the Community Church (connected building) years ago that the building's purchase by Mr. Webster was at the direction of his wife, as were a number of his real estate transactions, however, due to the era, Mrs. Webster did not receive documented credit of her development work. Jody gave Townes a direction to check with the local Gunnison branch of the County Library's local history file cabinet to see if there may be newspaper articles or other "local" level information that could help guide him. Townes said he will head back into the research and see what he can find regarding the Hall building.

No update on Butch Clark's listing paperwork.

Jody let everyone know that she got an email from Heather that she was able to organize a couple of students from the computer sciences department to work on the requested updates for the tour to be put on the website. Heather mentioned that the students would not be able to do the work for credit hours and would like to explore if we could provide a stipend for their time. Jody suggested we get a proposal of what that may be from Heather before we vote on anything and that we currently have about \$1,000 in our account and upcoming costs for signs and conference travel to consider. We can continue this proposal via email.

LeeAnn is motivated to get the Webster Hall sign completed and has spoken with OffCenter Design and they can produce the sign for us. When the history research is gathered by Townes then LeeAnn will work to write up the language and photo for the sign.

Shelley was not able to attend, but via email was able to update that she is working with Metcalf for an updated survey proposal and is working on the grant that is due in January.

LeeAnn and David are working on the Historic Agricultural Heritage award and have not been able to find an historic photo. LeeAnn will coordinate with the recipients and the Gunnison Times for the award presentation and photo in the coming week.

In regards to the last meetings discussion of the Resolution HPC Update, Jody corresponded with Lindsey at History Colorado to gain more insight and potential direction. Lindsey clarified that for CLG compliance we can still have guidelines that are as relaxed as "voluntary compliance" and was able to send along a couple of examples and a contact of an official in Golden that can give us a first hand

account of pros and cons of how this works for them. Jody will forward this information for everyone to read and we can continue our discussion of how we may want to present revisions to the BOCC.

Al told the group that he is working on a plaque for the history of his historic home in town. He also brought up his support and enthusiasm for the preservation and rehabilitation of Hartman Castle. It was brought up that Shelley Popke, Polly Oberosler, and Pam Williams have successfully created a non-profit entity to work with the current owner on purchasing the property. They are currently fundraising for those purchase funds and had a historic presentation with Duane Vandebush as their first event that went well. There was some public concern regarding potential high costs of the restoration at the meeting, but we all agreed it is too early to estimate numbers. Al mentioned he met Tim Williams (Pam's husband) at the property and helped him close up openings for the winter to minimize further weather damage. He was also aware that Polly put out a Facebook notice to call for clean up help, but he didn't know if it got out to many people and if they were able to do anything. Al felt it was important to prioritize new roofing, and adding a temporary metal flashing to some of the upper level south windows that are allowing moisture into the wall and damaging the wall and interior below. Al also supported a more thorough assessment of the property so phases of work can be prioritized and publicized to engage the public and help with fund raising momentum. Jody told the group she also visited the property with Tim Williams, by request of the non-profit group, recently to do an initial evaluation of the condition of the building. She found the key elements of the structure to be in much better shape than expected and strongly supports the buildings potential for successful preservation and rehabilitation. She will share her brief initial write up email she sent along to the non-profit group. She presented to the group that her recommendation for next steps of the evaluation and planning would be an Historic Structure Assessment, either funded by the State Historic Fund Grant or privately. She will send examples of an H.S.A. report to the Commissioners so they may understand what is included. David also mentioned that he had opportunity to visit the building last spring and agreed it was in solid condition and felt closing it up for winter would be helpful and is excited to continue to work toward saving it.

Townes told the group that he and Val are scheduled to meet with Heather and organize next steps for work on Somerset history and downtown Gunnison building research. As mentioned above, he is going to continue working on Webster Hall research.

Val has had some trouble finding historic information on several buildings she's looking for, but was able to find some information on the Catholic Church and the Gunnison Times building. Jody let her know that Chris and Kirsten Dickie own the newspaper building and the neighboring one with OffCenter Designs, so they may be a good resource to help guide her.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:55.