



**Washington City
Historic Preservation Commission
August 23rd, 2023, 2:00pm**

Attendance: Commissioners: Mike Harless, George Cannon, Carmen Snow, Sherrie Staheli, Mayor Kress Staheli, Council Member Kim Casperson, Public Affairs Director Jordan Hess, Deputy Recorder Lexi Ruesch, Assistant Leisure Services Director Paul Walker, George Staheli.

Absent: Mike Jensen

Called to Order: 2:00pm

1. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved unanimously.

2. Approval of Minutes

a. Consideration to approve the minutes from the Historic Preservation Commission minutes from the 05/24/2023 meeting.

The minutes from the May 24th meeting were approved unanimously.

3. Project Updates

a. Old School Gym Remodel - Mayor Staheli

Mayor Staheli discussed the current stage of process on the remodel of the Old School Gym. They've hired Sirq construction, and anticipate hiring an architect shortly. These companies are professionals who have extensive experience with historic buildings. They hope to be starting by January 2024 and finish around June 2024. The Council has approved RAP funding for the restoration; and the Mayor and Council would love to have input from this board on this matter. They would love to get a bulleted list of 3-5 most important historical aspects of this gym building. Later, they'd love to host a walkthrough with the members of this board in order to gain the historical perspective on this structure.

b. Historical District/General Plan Update - Mayor Staheli

Mayor Staheli stated that the Council is pushing for an update to the General Plan. He's looking to select a consultant this Fall, and start the process in 2024. He anticipates bringing a few consultants before Council for interviews and questions before selection. Next Wednesday on the 30th, there will be a public open house to discuss the general

plan land use maps. As we update these maps, he'd appreciate this body's support and input on these historical commercial zones along Telegraph and up Main Street.

Sherrie Staheli suggested putting together a short survey or questionnaire to gain public input and public buy-in. She offered their support in interpreting the results of such a survey.

c. Foster Farm Acquisition - Mike Harless

Mike Harless stated that Gayle Smith stepped in and is working directly with the owner of the Foster Farm property. The family seems to be interested in a private acquisition of this property.

Council Member Casperson stated that she likes the idea of leaving the structure in its original location as this structure was on the Honeymoon Trail.

Jordan Hess confirmed that a public entity would restore the project.

d. Historical Markers/Plaques - Mike Harless

Mike Harless stated that they've previously identified a bunch of historical destinations. He handed out a list, and asked that all attendees take some time to check the list and add any locations that need adding.

e. Native American Monument - George Staheli

George Staheli discussed a two pronged project to honor the Indians who resided here historically. He'd like to raise money for a monument. They could put it on the corner of Telegraph and Main, or down in Sullivan Park looking up to Shinob-Kobe. The County is on board to donate RAP tax money, and the Mayor has said that the City will contribute RAP tax money. The second part would be to create an exhibit within the museum focusing on Native American artifacts from this area. We currently have a weaving exhibit, but it's not permanent. It is a 2 year contract. He feels that the existing Native American exhibit is a real tourist attraction. We need to get the money raised so that we can get the monument started.

George Cannon asked if they'd need to expand the museum to fit these new exhibits.

Mike Harless stated that the old gym was the expansion idea.

George Staheli stated that we need to decide what we want to use that gym for before the remodel. He'd love to see it used for plays and dances, but he feels it could get out of hand.

Sherrie Staheli asked if we have a template or design for the monument.

George Staheli said he'd like to see the relationship between the Native Americans and Pioneers represented. His idea would be a woman grinding corn, a young lady with berries, a chief with a bow and arrows, and a young boy holding rabbits.

Mike Harless gave some history on the Southern Utah expeditions from some diaries. They pointed to the Indians farming the area down by Sullivan Park.

f. Grapevine Crossing Trail - Paul Walker

Paul Walker gave an update on the Grapevine Crossing Trail. It went out to bid in May, and came back high. It's currently out for bid again. The bid is for the substation infrastructure as well as the trailhead itself. The staff is really hopeful that we'll get some competitive bids.

Council Member Casperson asked about the Solente development.

Paul Walker stated that they are working in conjunction with the Solente development. The City is hoping to have this project completed by November or December of this year. The Park and Power departments are both contributing funds to this project. They'd love to have some input on the historic signage design from this group. The signs will be put in at the end of the project. They'd also like to have some historic locations pin-pointed and marked along the trail.

Mike Harless elaborated on how the Grapevine Crossing was vital to travel to and from Washington and St George.

g. Covington Mansion Parking Area - Paul Walker

Paul Walker updated on the expansion. The Parks Department asked for RAP tax money for the parking area; but the estimate was higher than the amount of money that they received. So, they decided to move forward with the parking area, but may have to hold off on the shed and bathrooms for a short while.

Sherrie Staheli asked about the Tithing Home.

Paul Walker stated that he knows their previous concerns were heard, and there are plans in place. There will be a fence and minimal landscaping. They plan to continue the rod iron fence around the back of the property as well as the front of the parking area. The Tithing House will be near the front of the parking structure near the road. There haven't been any plans for which direction this building faces.

Sherrie Staheli asked that they continue to have further discussion regarding the design and location of the bathroom.

Paul Walker stated he'd take these comments back to the Parks Department.

h. Covington Mansion Repair

i. Porch Sanding/Painting - Paul Walker

Paul Walker stated that they've gotten bids on the back and front porch. The top porch will be sealed, but it will also be sanded and restored. The bid that they got back was

\$3K for the back and \$10K for the front. We have got the funding for \$7K to put an AC in the Covington Home.

Sherrie Staheli said that she'd try to find the contact of a guy who does historic restoration. She doesn't feel like we've been doing a good job with this structure so far.

Carmen Snow suggested Blair Osborn for the painting.

ii. Mortar - Paul Walker

Paul Walker said that they've been looking into someone to replace the mortar. There is a collection of different patch mortar jobs, so it will be tricky to fix.

George Cannon stated that as we find good historical restoration contractors we should create a list to share with other municipalities and property owners.

iii. Exterior Restoration

Paul Walker stated that they're getting some bids on sanding and painting for the handrails.

iv. CLG Grant - Mike Harless

Mike Harless stated that we are eligible for the next CLG grant, but we'd have to get that application in on time.

4. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 pm.

The next meeting will be held on September 27, 2023 at the Washington City Offices.

Passed and Approved on the 27th of September 2023.



Lexi Ruesch, Deputy Recorder

