



Minutes
3:30PM, September 17th, 2020
Via Zoom

1. Call meeting to order by Susan Steffens at 3:30.

A quorum was established

In Attendance: Susan Steffens, Kristin Drees, Nick Ladas, Chelly Hasquet, Abigail St. Lawrence, Kathy Macefield (volunteer), Peggy Benkelman (coordinator)

Excused: Lou Archambault, Jennie Stapp, Wilmot Collins, Margaret Strachan

Guests: Bret Boundy, Kristi Ponozzo (Parks) Sharon Haugan (Community Development) Kevin Keeler.

2. Approve minutes from August, 2020

A motion was made to approve the August minutes. Motion seconded. Minutes approved.

3. Equity Fountain – Unveiling ceremony.

Ron Waterman wants to wait until spring for ceremony – hopefully there will be a COVID vaccine by then.

4. Discussion of Ghost Signs Preservation

Kevin Keeler has joined the meeting via phone. Nancy Bennett in town doing new Ghost Sign at Farmers State Bank. HPAC has not heard about money from city on Ghost Signs. HPAC will need private money. Each Ghost Sign cost approximately 15K, but “grouping” signs would make it cheaper. Kevin sent fundraising ideas in email. He mentioned the Farmers Bank newer Ghost sign got mention in paper and on TV news. Firestone rep in Salt Lake City never replied to Kevin Keeler about supporting Ghost Signs in Helena. Kevin mentions local funding – put out challenge to local banks for them to help with fundraising. Kevin feels HPAC could raise \$50K. HPAC should work with and piggy bank on Farmers Bank enthusiasm. HPAC could write letter to reach out for money. Kevin Keeler is willing to work with HPAC for marketing. HPAC will consider Kevin’s recommendation and get back to him.

Peggy Benkelman exchanged emails with Kevin Keeler and he suggested we reach out directly to the Firestone Corporation. He provided emails and phone numbers.

It was also suggested that we narrow down to two (2), the ghost signs we want restored.

We are still awaiting a funding answer about the Ghost Signs. Possibility that BID or TIF funds may be made available for Ghost Signs. Sharon suggested that HPAC get approval from building owners first before HPAC approaches for these funds.

5. Discussion of HPAC becoming a non-profit

Both Susan Steffens (chair) and Kristin Dress (co-chair) of HPAC were invited to a private zoom meeting with Melinda Reed (interim City Manager) and Dannai Clayborn (interim Clerk of Commission) to discuss the possibility of HPAC becoming a non-profit. For the record; Peggy Benkelman was not invited to the meeting and was not aware of the topic. They were a bit blindsided by the news. Susan asked HPAC members to give their thoughts on the matter and all members were not in favor of the idea of the committee becoming a non-profit. Abigail St. Lawrence is especially concerned about HPAC being an effective partner to the city in the future. This type of change to HPAC shows the city possibly excluding citizen input by getting rid of advisory boards – this is very disturbing. Chelly Hasquet asks if there are other persons she could write a letter to concerning this issue. Peggy Benkelman says you can write your Commissioner. She will send an email out with emails of the Commissioners, or you can look on the City of Helena webpage. Kristin Drees felt the meeting with Melinda Reed and Dannai Clayborn was heavy-handed and rather disingenuous. The utilization of “Best Practices” kept being referenced yet no detail given. Abigail St. Lawrence cannot state enough how HPAC has been more than conscientious about following best practices: open to public, minutes, agenda posted online, following correct protocol within city government etc. She finds it insulting that possibly the City of Helena finds HPAC’s input irrelevant.

6. Discussion of Budget available for 2020 and 2021

No change in funding from last month. Asked for carry-over money for next year, but have not heard about it. HPAC is pushing for an answer about Ghost Sign funding and funding for possible future projects. Can’t really plan for future until we hear more.

7. Memorial installation for Kyle Boundy

Kristi Ponozzo (Parks) discusses that Public Opinion is needed for the sculpture. She suggests some sort of news release: outreach with pictures of the sculpture, include public comment, share why sculpture is there (history of Kyle Boundy), possible zoom public meeting, signage in the park, query city database and notify neighbors. Kristi will proceed with some of these options and notify HPAC. Bret Boundy says “let him know how he can help”. Congratulations go out to Paul Hogan (artist). Kristi Ponozzo states specifics of contract need to meet ADA and safety requirements. A discussion ensued. Paul Hogan talks of accessibility, and how viewers could just “roll up” to the sculpture. Sharon Haugan says yes this is important. Kristi Ponozzo suggests to move the location closer to the existing sidewalk to accommodate those with mobility issues. A Fall Zone would definitely be needed if the sculpture height is 17 feet. Kristi Ponozzo suggests maybe the sculpture could be 7-10 feet high, so a fall zone would be less of an issue. There also needs to be no spaces between 4-19 inches so people/children would not get arms or legs stuck in the sculpture. Nothing should be protruding from the base that is higher than ½ and inch – so there is no tripping hazard. Bret Boundy asks is grass is considered a fall zone. Kristi Ponozzo says no. Fall zone components could be wood chips, engineered grass fiber, or *pour-in-place*.

Sharon Haugan asks if piece was meant to be tactile. Paul Hogan says no it is mostly visual. A person approaches the sculpture and sees musical notes on the ground (base) then they walk around it and it appears to be moving. Bret Boundy wonders if a $\frac{3}{4}$ version would be appropriate and that would equate to about 12.5 feet in height. Peggy Benkelman will send out an email with everyone's phone and email addresses so that Kristi Ponzoso can work with both the artist and Bret Boundy on the contract, making sure it covers ADA and safety requirements. Paul Hogan (artist) says he very appreciative of being chosen, and is aware of the ADA and safety concerns. He is more than willing to make changes to the sculpture.

8. Traffic Signal Boxes

The 7 finalists were chosen and paid. Their names and pieces are posted on our webpage. Fast Signs cannot wrap the signal boxes until the weather is cooler. It may have to wait until Mid-Late September. The 6th Ave x Rodney St. box is definitely being removed. Fast Signs said that they cannot remove the wrap and reuse it. According to the Artist Agreement, HPAC (and the City) do not need to replace the wrap, nor do we need to notify the artist that it is being removed. We may discuss further at the next meeting. It would be a nicety to at least inform the artist.

9. Public comment - none

10. Meeting was Adjourned at PM

11. Next meeting October 15th, at 3:30pm, 2020 via Zoom

