



CASPER HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
December 11, 2023

Present: Connie Hall, Jeff Bond, Carolyn Buff, Tammie Chappell, Randy Hein, Anthony Jacobsen, Bob King, John Lang, Maureen Lee, and Paul Yurkiewicz (by phone)

Absent: Robin Broumley

Staff: Barb Santmire, Administrative Assistant III

Guests: Michael McIntosh, Planning & Zoning Commission Liaison
Katelynn Larsen
Bob Bailey

Chairperson Connie Hall called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

Approval of Minutes

Chairperson Hall asked for approval of the October 16, 2023 meeting minutes. With no corrections, the minutes were approved.

New Business

- The October 1, 2022 through September 30, 2023 Wyoming SHPO CLG Annual Report was submitted for review by the Commission. There were no additions or changes to the report which will now go to Council for approval and the Mayor's signature.

Old Business

Christmas Ornaments

- A notice was added to the CHPC Facebook page on 11/22 thanking all who purchased an ornament and asking that anyone with a suggestion for the 2024 ornament to email Planning (planning@casperwy.gov). No emails have been received.
- It was decided that Maureen will add a poll to the Facebook page and generate a QR code that she will share with staff. Staff will create a 1-page "flyer" with the QR code and request that Fort Caspar gift shop allow it to be placed on the counter where visitors check out.

Fort Caspar has reported that they are still getting a lot of inquiries about the 2023 ornament and the flyer may help garner attention and input from those interested.

- The date for suggestions will be extended to March 15th.
- A notice will also be sent to Oil City News to see if that can generate public interaction.

Self-Guided Tour Brochure

- Jeff will reach out to Visit Casper and serve as a liaison for the brochures to ensure that any changes the CHPC would like made get conveyed to Visit Casper for the next printing cycle. Current changes include ensuring the information on Caspar Collins is correct, removing the individual names of the CHPC members, and adding the QR code, social media information, and website.

Pathways National Heritage Area Presentation

- The Commission asked if there were any updates on the status of this project and stated that there is a bit of concern because the two people running the site to garner feedback are not independent of the project so it could be considered a conflict of interest.
- There was also concern that SHPO has never been contacted about the project and they should have been among the first groups approached.
- It was suggested that the Commission follow the progress of an already established area.

OYD Committee Update – There was no meeting in October and the November meeting was a community clean up day.

P&Z Commission – There was no report.

Demolition Permits – The Commission reviewed the following requests for demolitions that have been received since the last meeting:

- 933 S Poplar
- 1014 W 11th

Social Media/Outreach/Education – Efforts should continue to be made to link the CHPC Facebook page and Instagram account.

Field Visits/Tours

- The Commissioners toured The Rialto and The America theatres in November. Both buildings have been purchased and will be turned into live event venues – one for comedy and other live shows and the other as an indoor music venue.

Other Business

- The Natrona County Historic Preservation Commission is pursuing ways to preserve Hell's Half Acre. Carolyn will provide an update at the January meeting.
- Midwest Avenue – Phase III (from Walnut to Poplar) will begin in March 2024 and will encompass infrastructure improvements and enhancements so this final section will match Phases I (completed in 2019) and II (completed in 2021).
- The Tumble Inn sign (from Powder River, WY) has been purchased by John Huff and is in process of being restored. Anyone interested in following the progress of the restoration can go to the website: <https://tumbleinnsignpage1.godaddysites.com/>

- The Rails-to-Trails Conservancy is in the process of creating the Great American Rail-Trail which will be a biking/walking trail that stretches more than 3,700 miles from Washington, D.C., and Washington State. The proposed trail will come through Casper and is expected to increase visitor spending, labor income, and the GDP contribution, as well as creating new jobs and new tax revenue.
- Bob King gave his presentation on the Sanborn Maps at a County Historic Preservation Commission meeting.

The next meeting will be held January 8, 2024.

(Minutes prepared by Barb Santmire)

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Connie J. Hall".

Chairperson

Casper Historic Preservation Commission