

Minutes of Meeting
Kootenai County Historic Preservation Commission (HPC)
DATE: 06-01-21
TIME: 4:00 PM

A. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Burns at 4:00 pm.

1. Opening Protocols:

Russ Brown gave opening protocols.

2. Roll Call:

Present were Chair Walter Burns, Vice-chair Joe Piedmont, Russ Brown, Laurie Mauser and Jonathan Mueller. Courtney Beebe was present by phone. Jennifer DeRose was excused.

3. Introduce Guests:

There were no guests.

4. Approval Of Minutes:

There were no minutes to approve.

B. Business (Action Items)

Agenda Item #1 – Planning/Visioning

- a. Chair Walter Burns led the group in a planning/visioning discussion related to committee operations. A summary of the product of that discussion as prepared by Vice-chair Joe Piedmont is presented below:

**HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
STRATEGIC VISION**

The Historic Preservation Commission has determined that a review of its duties, obligations, and strategy is needed in order to provide a proper plan to successfully serve Kootenai County. A special meeting was called to provide a forum for this discussion and to set the initial guidelines the HPC would follow to make itself more responsive, more productive, and better aligned with the County at large. The results of the Special meeting are detailed below and the discussion points have been grouped into three categories.

1. Defining the Duties and Obligations of the HPC.
 - a. What is the purpose of the HPC?
 - b. How does the HPC intend to fulfill its purpose?

2. Confirming the direction and tasks for the remainder of 2021.
 - a. What can be completed?
 - b. What needs to take priority?
3. Creating a long term vision and timeline for the next 3-5 years.
 - a. Establish a planning calendar.
 - b. Understand the lead times associated with the deliverables.

DUTIES AND OBLIGATIONS

The duties and obligations of the HPC are identified as follows from the Kootenai County Master Plan:

- A. Manage Historic planning for surveys and catalogs of the county. This is defined as establishing an authoritative historical planning curriculum which leverages CLG status and State grants but is also augmented by activities funded elsewhere. Details such as the following are relevant:
 - a. Bayview – establishing the importance of this area from pioneer days through WWII.
 - b. Garden District – catalog of home styles and construction which defines an era in CDA and helps to establish architectural and land use guidelines for the residents of this district.
 - c. Catalog of Historic Buildings – defined by age groups.
 - d. Fundraising – generating a revenue stream for Historic purposes; “Friends of Kootenai County”, “Centennial Celebrations”, etc.
- B. Outreach and Public Relations. This is defined as discovering the overlap a county commission has with city commissions and other Historic entities to better coordinate with these groups as well as providing resources for public engagement of the commission’s intentions and outputs. Some examples include:
 - a. Coordination with other CLG’s, other Historic Committees.
 - b. Education of the citizenry with respect to Historic issues, places, and events in the county.
 - c. Providing more robust interface for citizens and those outside the county to learn about this area and why it is special.
- C. Government Affairs. This is defined as the HPC’s role in advising the B.O.C.C. on matters of governance to address the needs of county from an Historic perspective. Some examples include:
 - a. Policy creation/administration overseeing how Historic issues are managed.
 - b. Ordinances governing what is legal and illegal with regard to Historic properties.
 - c. Establishing authority of the HPC to influence/affect other groups.
 - i. Planning and Zoning – to ensure proper use of the area’s resources.
 - ii. Establishing common “rules” for the county that would align with the State of Idaho and provide basic framework for other Historic groups.
- D. Programs and Interpretations. This relates to the overt expression of the HPC to the citizenry of Kootenai County in ways that go beyond education to celebrate the heritage, people, and resources of the area. Examples include:

- a. Planning/executing events to celebrate unique dates or events in the county.
- b. Connections to pre-history of the area – Native Americans, Natural History.
- c. Economic transitions in the county – mining to timber to tourism.

SHORT TERM OBJECTIVES

The short term objectives of the HPC relate to concluding the current business of 2021 and establishing the research, intentionality, and direction for the HPC to follow going into the next few years. These include:

- A. Review the HPC’s portion in the Comprehensive County Plan.
 - a. Propose updates as needed.
 - b. Request grants to conduct research.
 - c. Establish better understanding of how the Kootenai County budget process works.
- B. Should the HPC create “Liaison Positions” to interface with other groups in the county?
 - a. Planning and Zoning?
 - b. CDA HPC?
 - c. Post Falls HPC?
- C. Should the HPC request a presentation from the Coeur d’ Alene Tribal Council with the intent of learning what is a priority to this important segment of the county?
 - a. Can there be coordination of efforts between Kootenai County and the Coeur d’ Alene Tribe?
 - b. Can there be a shared vision on the future of History in the area?
- D. Should the HPC work to create Sub-Committees and assign “projects” to commission members?
 - a. Check by-laws to ensure procedure is followed in this act.
 - b. Need to establish internal reporting processes to maintain continuity of command.
 - c. Need to establish how authority is granted to sub-committees to imbue members with power to get the jobs done.
 - d. What should the sub-committees be?
 - i. Longer term sub-committees which are perennial.
 - ii. Special assignment sub-committees which are project based.
- E. Finish current projects.
 - a. Cougar Gulch Survey – project is currently being executed. Updates and direction as needed.
 - b. N.E. Kootenai County – project is being refined for scope and deliverables.
 - c. Catalog of Structures – proposed research project to determine what has been cataloged, what still needs to be done, and the extent/quality of the list.
- F. Calendar creation.
 - a. Detail second half of 2021 and provide timelines/deadlines for action/completion.
 - b. Provide a general calendar which groups tasks and sub-committees into the four quarters of the year to streamline actions and maximize meetings.

LONG TERM VISION

The HPC seeks to create a 3-5 year “business plan” which coordinates future efforts toward executing its Duties and Obligations. This plan is intended to provide a wealth of opportunities which can be activated and accomplished. The plan purposefully lists more than can be accomplished so the HPC can dynamically manage its outputs with respect to budget, duration, and availability of assistance. The Long Term Vision includes:

A. Calendar Timeline Creation.

- a. This will build upon the general calendar from the Short Term Objectives exercise and will work to fill in opportunities related to the four Duties and Obligations sections.
- b. This calendar will estimate lead times and expenses to allow for proper consideration of the opportunities listed.
- c. The HPC will conduct regular “Special Meetings” to discuss and vote on which opportunities are activated.

B. Surveys/Resources

- a. Mica Flats
- b. Cataldo area
- c. Harrison and St. Maries

C. Outreach/PR

- a. Pioneer stories
- b. Canal system from Hauser Lake
- c. Steam Paddlewheel boats on CDA Lake
- d. Harrison vs. CDA for County Seat
- e. Prospecting Sites in Wolf Lodge area
- f. Video Series featuring Kootenai County History

D. Government Affairs

- a. Coeur d’ Alene Tribe – Tribal lands extend into Benewah County, how does this affect the Kootenai HPC?
 - i. Is there coordination between Kootenai, Benewah, and the Tribal Council needed?
 - ii. How does the State of Idaho contribute to these efforts?
- b. Policy/Ordinance creation.
 - i. What should these be?
 - ii. Investigate potential impacts to other groups and other regions regarding policies affecting Kootenai County.
 - iii. Should there be a hearing committee for citizens?
 1. Hear requests for Historic consideration.
 2. Mediate disputes the policies might create.
 3. What are the consequences for not following policy?

E. Programs and Interpretation

- a. Centennial of Kootenai County Courthouse.
 - i. Pictorial down through the ages.
 - ii. Celebration of an Historic building.
- b. Economy and Prosperity
 - i. Mining – impacts and ghost stories.
 - ii. Timber – logging, saw mills, railroad.

- iii. Agriculture – what worked? Barns of the region.
- iv. Tourism – Paddlewheel boats, camping, CDA as a railroad destination.
- c. Mapping the Historic Timeline
 - i. Natural History – how far back?
 - 1. Dinosaurs?
 - 2. Missoula Flood(s)?
 - 3. Geology of the region
 - ii. Cultural History – who has lived here? Why?
 - 1. Native Americans
 - 2. Early pioneers/trappers
 - 3. Settlers/homesteaders
 - iii. Migration and Modernism
 - 1. Growth of the region during WWII
 - 2. Stagnation after Silver/Timber diminished
 - 3. Tourism and the “lake home”
 - 4. Influx from other states

C. Open Floor

No public comments.

D. Adjourn

There being no further discussion of agenda items or public comment, Russ Brown moved to adjourn the meeting; Vice-chair Piedmont seconded the motion. The motion was carried. Chair Burns adjourned the meeting at 5:20 pm.

Jonathan Mueller, Committee Secretary with assist from Vice-chair Joe Piedmont