

A Meeting of the  
**MONTANA HERITAGE COMMISSION**

March 2, 2018

Reeder's Alley Convention Center

101 Reeder's Alley

Helena, MT 59601

MISSION

*The Montana Heritage Commission preserves and manages historic resources in Virginia City, Nevada City and Reeder's Alley and promotes the appreciation of history through quality visitor experiences.*

**Commissioners Present**

Marilyn Ross, Philip Maechling, Andy Poole, Bruce Whittenberg, Barbie Durham, Timothy Lehman, Bill Howell, David Hoffman

**Commissioners Absent**

Bill Beck, Matthew Marcinek, Stan Ozark, Shera Konen, Pam Haxby-Cote

**Staff Members Present**

Elijah Allen, Executive Director; Amy Barnes, Attorney; Bonnie Martello, Paralegal

**Interested Persons**

Chere Justo, Dustin Kalanick

**Call to Order**

The Montana Heritage Commission was called to order by Chair Ross at 12:35 pm.

**Approval of December 8, 2017 Minutes**

**Commissioner Meachling motioned to approve the minutes. Commissioner Howell seconded. Motion carried.**

**Public Comment**

Chere Justo and Dustin Kalanick, from the Montana Preservation Alliance (MPA) discussed their partnership with the Montana Heritage Commission (MHC) to preserve the Methodist Church in Virginia City. Chere commented that MPA has applied on behalf of MHC to Save America's Treasures Program and the National Trust for Historic Preservation to help financially with the project. Dustin discussed that their focus is to make the building structurally sound and then move towards preservation of the structure, so it can be fully preserved and available to public.

**Director's Report**

Elijah stated that the annual Reeder's Alley Block party is set for June 7, 2018. Elijah also expressed that he would like to have full commission attendance for the June meeting as there will be an onsite overview of the all completed projects. Elijah provided a list of the completed projects which include Thomas Meagher Cabin, Harding Residence, and Bonanza Inn. The Nevada City Cabins and the VC Information Center are in the process of being completed. Elijah discussed two legislative requests: Long Range Building Request and the Bed Tax to adjust for inflation. Commissioner Poole discussed with the Commission possible ways to present the increase of funds to the Legislature.

### **Old Business**

Elijah reported that the Evalyn Johnson land donation is complete and was recorded with the County this month. Elijah also stated that the walking trail has been dedicated in her name. Elijah stated that the McFarland donation will be heard by the Land Board on April 16, 2018. Elijah stated that everything seems to be in order and doesn't think any issue will arise.

### **New Business**

#### **MHC Commissioner appointments and job description**

Elijah reported that he did receive information that Dr. Lehman and Commissioner Poole been reappointed to the Commission and he is waiting an appointment from someone from the Tourism Advisory Council and a proxy from Fish Wildlife and Parks.

Elijah presented the draft job description that was drafted by HR. The Commission discussed the proposed job description with considerable conversation with "Members may be removed from Commission for missing two or more meetings in a year" in section 5. The Commission agreed that the language is acceptable language as it says "may". Commission Whittenberg suggested that "'at least one" in section 6 be removed.

**Commissioner Poole motioned that the Commission Member Job Description be approved with the specified modifications. Commissioner Whittenberg seconded. Motion carried.**

#### **Boundary line adjustment and potential sale with Central City LLC.**

The Commission along with Amy Barnes discussed the ownership and easements of the property in common with Central City LLC. Commissioner Hoffman and Commissioner Poole discussed the possibility of a conservation easement or deed restrictions and clearing up the train tracks issue instead of the boundary line adjustment. Commissioner Poole stated that the down side is not gaining funds for the sale. Amy Barnes stated the next steps are to get a title report and discuss with Central City if they are open to negotiate further. The Commission asked that Amy and Elijah communicate with Central City to see if they are open to options for the sale of the property. Commissioner Maechling requested that region maps of the area and easements of the property to be provided to the Commission.

#### **VC Town Zoning Laws**

Elijah updated the Commission on the concessioner sign issues. Elijah stated that MHC is in a good state currently with the City. Amy discussed further options that MHC could explore if the city continues to make road block on concessionaire signs. Commissioner Poole suggested that we construct the contract that the MHC is responsible for all exterior changes then the City doesn't have a say on the signs. Elijah discussed making all the boardwalk signage the same and consistent. Chair Ross asked that Elijah and Amy work together to come up with a solution and present options to the Town Counsel for approval.

#### **MHC Commissioner Comments**

### **Annual MHC Executive Board Election**

Chair Ross clarified that Commissioner Howell is not up for reappointment until May of 2019, Commissioner Howell expressed that he will continue as vice-chair until his term is up if allowed, Chair Ross also expressed her interest in continuing as chair until her term is up on May of 2019. **Commissioner Whittenberg motioned for election of that slate of officers. Commissioner Hoffman seconded. Motion carried.**

The next Commission will be June 1, 2018 in Virginia City.

### **Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m.