

Historic Preservation Board Meeting

Minutes – September 4, 2001

Present: Bill Jones, Lyn Ross for Barbara Creasman, Dennis Pretti, David Bailey

Not Present: Pat Gormley, Phil Born, Louise Wagner

Also Present: Bob Blanchard, Director of Community Development; Stephanie Rubinstein, Office of the City Attorney and Kristen Ashbeck, Community Development Department

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 pm at City Hall in the Community Development Conference Room

INTRODUCTION OF NEW DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT: Bob Blanchard, Director of Community Development Department introduced himself to Board members.

MINUTES: Dennis Pretti made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 7, 2001 meeting. Motion was passed on a second by David Bailey (4-0).

DISCUSSION OF BYLAWS: Stephanie Rubinstein of the Office of the City Attorney went over the draft of bylaws that had been provided Board members. She stated that Council has requested that all City Boards and Commissions adopt bylaws. The Board's areas of concern were: Article 1, statement of purpose (Kristen to work on for review at next meeting); revise Article 6 to recognize that the Board does not meet if there are no agenda items; revise Article 7 to add that a written proxy can be substituted for attendance by a Board member; and terms of members should not be limited since it is difficult to keep the make-up of the Board as required by Code with only a limited number of new applicants. Stephanie will look into whether the current term limitation imposed by City Council can be revised for this particular Board. The Board agreed to re-review the bylaws at the October meeting, once revisions had been made per these comments.

RECOMMENDATION ON HISTORIC DESIGNATION – 800 COLORADO AVENUE: The Board did an on-site visit of the Seventh Day Adventist Church located at 800 Colorado Avenue. The building is currently vacant and the owner, Dr. Joseph Maruca is looking for a tenant. It appears to have been used as a church as recently as the early 1990s. The Board discussed the overall integrity of the building and noted that it has had very little alteration. While simple in design, it is a good example of this architectural style. Kristen stated that the owner had already had an architect assess the building and had recently replaced the roof. The owner is interested in pursuing historical funds for further renovation of the building.

David Bailey made a motion to forward the designation to City Council with a recommendation of approval for the following reasons: 1) the structure is more than 50 years old; 2) exemplifies specific elements of an architectural style or period; 3) is an established and familiar visual feature of the City; and 4) enhances the sense of identity of the City. Dennis Pretti seconded the motion, which passed unanimously (4-0).

OTHER PROJECTS UPDATE: Kristen reviewed the status of some of the ongoing historic preservation or related projects.

- **Reed Building** – Lyn stated that the architectural plans have been completed and the façade renovation should begin early in 2002.
- **Williams House** – The draft report to the State will be submitted this week. Board members expressed interest in having a copy of the final report for review. Pending State review of the draft report, the final report is due November 4, 2001.
- **Western Colorado Botanic Gardens** – Allison Sarmo, Cultural Arts Coordinator for the City, had sent a message regarding a project beginning at the Botanic Gardens to create an area for a historical garden. The garden would focus on five areas of Grand Junction's history: farming, orchards, sheep ranching, cattle ranching and the Ute Indians. Board members expressed interest in the idea. Kristen will follow up with the contact at the Gardens to see if there is some way the Board might help with the project.
- **Mesa County Courthouse Tour** – Chuck Rose of the Mesa County Facilities and Parks Department had been contacted but he said that the building was not safe enough for a group tour this month. Kristen will follow up with Chuck to see if an October tour would be possible.

Lyn mentioned that Barbara Creasman would like to have the following items appear for discussion on the agenda for the next meeting: Steam Plant, Bus Station, Downtown Commercial Historic District.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:05 pm.