

Historic Preservation Board Meeting

Minutes - May 6, 1996

Present: Sandy Karhu, Pat Gormley, Greg Walcher

Not Present: Ed Chamberlin, David Bailey, Steve Schulte, Phil Born

Also Present: Kristen Ashbeck, Community Development Department, Barbara Creasman, Downtown Development Authority

The meeting was called to order at 4:05 pm by chair Sandy Karhu at the C.D. Smith Conference Room

MINUTES: Chair Karhu asked for approval of the minutes of the April 1, 1996 meeting. The minutes were approved as submitted on a motion by Pat Gormley and second by Greg Walcher.

PUBLIC HISTORY CLASS UPDATE: Sandy Karhu updated the Board on the status of the Public History class' effort on the public information brochure. A draft was circulated to Board members the last week of April. Sandy thanked all the members that responded to and commented on the draft in a short timeframe. The comments will be very useful. Although the formal class has been completed, a couple of the students expressed interest in continuing work on the project through the summer. Sandy will provide the comments to Steve to pass on to the students.

RECOMMENDATION ON LOCAL HISTORIC DESIGNATION - STRANGES

GROCERY: The Board discussed an application by Marjorie Montgomery and Jana Montgomery Santini for designation of the Stranges Grocery Store located at 226 Pitkin Avenue in the City Register of Historic Sites, Structures and Districts. The members wanted to know about the confusion between the name Stranges and Stranger. Pat Gormley was able to inform the Board that it was a change in spelling over the years with immigration etc. He stated that a local descendent of Carl's has recently changed his name back to the Stranges spelling.

The Board also wanted information regarding the future use of the building. Kristen stated that the owner's son-in-law, a prominent Italian photographer, would like to use it as a studio during the months he lives in the U.S. Pat Gormley made a motion to recommend approval of the designation of the Stranges Grocery for the following reasons: 1) building is more than 50 years old; 2) exemplifies cultural, political, economic or ethnic heritage of the City; 3) exemplifies specific elements of an architectural style or period; and 4) enhances the sense of identity of the City. Greg Walcher seconded the motion which passed 5-0.

RECOMMENDATION ON LOCAL HISTORIC DESIGNATION - FAIR BUILDING:

The Board discussed an application by Carol Newton, on behalf of her father Dr. Roland Raso, for designation of the Fair Building located at 501 Main Street in the City Register of Historic Sites, Structures and Districts. The Board members felt that eligibility of this building is very obvious as the Phase 1 survey had determined it to be eligible for National Register status. Pat Gormley questioned the date of construction as 1905-1910--his recollection was that it was constructed in 1903. Greg Walcher made a motion to recommend approval of the designation of the Fair Building for the following reasons:

1) building is more than 50 years old; 2) exemplifies cultural, political, economic or ethnic heritage of the City; 3) exemplifies specific elements of an architectural style or period; and 4) enhances the sense of identity of the City; 5) is an established and familiar visual feature of the City; and 6) is associated with a notable person in the community (William J. Moyers). Pat Gormley seconded the motion which passed 5-0.

Barbara Creasman suggested that the Board invite owners of buildings that are currently on the National Register of Historic Places to apply for local designation. The Board felt this was a good idea; Kristen will prepare a list of the properties, property owners and a draft letter.

1996 HISTORIC PRESERVATION WEEK: The Board recapped the activities/press planned during the upcoming Historic Preservation Week May 12-18. Mayor Ron Maupin presented a proclamation to Vice Chair Steve Schulte at last week's City Council meeting (May 1st). The City Newsletter stated that the Museum will have a special exhibit regarding historic preservation and the public showing of the Grand Junction High School Art Exhibit will be June 3-7 at Norwest Bank Downtown.

Phil Born has been in contact with the High School art teachers and the work is underway. Phil purchased a bulk roll of film for the students to use. Individual members donated money to reimburse Phil for the expense. The Board stated the need for a small budget to handle such expenses in the coming year. Kristen will pass the request along to the Community Development Director.

Since the next Board meeting is June 3, Phil suggested meeting at the Bank (4:00 pm) to help hang the exhibit. Barbara will look into a meeting space at the Bank to continue the meeting after the exhibit is up.

Barbara mentioned that a historic walking tour was being organized in conjunction with the chamber music festival for May 19, 1996. Kristen will add this to the information provided to the press. The Sentinel will be doing an article for the May 12th paper and may be contacting Board members for interviews.

POTENTIAL MAIN STREET / DOWNTOWN DISTRICT(S): Kristen showed the Board an updated aerial photo map that indicated the additional properties to be included in the Phase 2 survey. Pat Gormley, Sandy Karhu, Barbara Creasman and Kristen had walked the downtown area to determine which of these should be added. Barbara Creasman suggested that the old boarding house on the west side of 2nd Street (owned by Marjorie Montgomery) be added, and Greg Walcher suggested that the rear portion of City Hall (Carnegie Library) be included. Kristen will add these to the list for the Museum Group to include in the Phase 2 survey.

The Board requested that the map be refined to indicate which properties have been determined to be eligible for designation (contributing to a district). Then a block-by-block analysis can be done to determine whether enough contributing properties exist and then determine boundaries for a district(s). The refined map could be available for the June meeting, depending on completion of the survey.

OTHER ONGOING PROJECTS: Barbara updated the Board on announcement of mini grants from the Colorado Historical Society. The Mesa Theater grant was awarded but a grant for the Goodwill Building was not.

Kristen said that the Board should begin to think about how it is going to use the video, such as showings to local service groups, etc. We should show it to City Council soon, and it would be good to have some ideas as to its use to present to Council at that time.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:10 pm on a motion by Greg Walcher and second by Pat Gormley.