

Brookings Historic Preservation Commission
November 12, 2020 Minutes

A meeting of the Brookings Historic Preservation Commission was held on Thursday, November 12, 2020 in City Hall. Members present: Janet Merriman. Present via virtual meeting was Greg Heiberger, Jessica Garcia-Fritz, Angela Boersma, and Matthew Weiss. Janet Gritzner, Tom Thaden, Carrie Kuhl, and Andrew Royer were absent. Also present was Mike Struck, Community Development Director and Ryan Miller, City Planner.

Chairperson Merriman called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. A motion was made by Boersma and seconded by Garcia-Fritz to approve the agenda. All present voted yes, motion carried.

Motion by Boersma, seconded by Garcia-Fritz to approve the minutes from August 13, 2020 meeting. All present voted yes, motion carried.

Updates on 11.1 Reviews

Struck provided an overview of projects that were recently approved by the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) including:

1011 7th Avenue – rear house addition
923 9th Avenue – basement egress windows

Discussion on Historic Preservation Awards

Merriman provided a brief overview of the history of the Mayors Awards for Historic Preservation and with the traditional award ceremony being canceled for 2020 due to Covid. Other volunteer boards are proceeding with their own awards and wondered if the Brookings Historic Preservation Commission (BHPC) wanted to do so as well.

Struck advertised through a press release and social media platforms seeking nominations and did not receive any responses. A project review list of 2019 and 2020 projects was reviewed by the commission including a brief description of the project, address, and pictures of the project as of October 2020.

Garcia-Fritz suggested the Rudes Building and Ben Franklin project could qualify for the Stewardship category.

Merriman discussed the importance of recognizing property owners for making improvements and complying with historic preservation guidelines. Suggested the projects may not qualify under one of the preservation award categories, however, a letter recognizing their commitment to historic preservation should be considered.

Weiss questioned if historic preservation is tied to the Mayors Awards. Merriman responded one of the goals of the BHPC and Certified Local Government (CLG) status is to conduct at least one public education component annually. Garcia-Fritz suggested the Stewardship Award could qualify for properties replacing egress windows in compliance with historic preservation guidelines. Discussion ensued and additional information on egress windows is requested at a future meeting.

Subcommittee Discussion/Project Updates

Merriman suggested a webinar could be developed for the purpose of discussing the survey results from the virtual workshop (Workshop # 2) of the Preservation Plan Update.

BHPC Events

Struck informed the commission that McCrossan's Boys Ranch is not available to assist with the trolley rides due to Covid protocols established for the safety of their staff and individuals. The guided trolley rides for 2020 have been canceled.

Future Meeting Schedule & Time

- Next meeting is scheduled for December 10, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.

Motion by Boersma, seconded by Garcia-Fritz to adjourn at 6:45 p.m.


Janet Merriman, Chairperson
Mike Struck, Community Development Director