

**Minutes of Meeting**  
**Kootenai County Historic Preservation Commission (HPC)**  
**DATE: February 23, 2021**  
**TIME: 3:30 p.m.**

**A. Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Acting Chair Burns at 3:33 pm.

**1. Opening Protocols:** Russ Brown gave opening protocols.

**2. Roll Call:** Present were Acting Chair Walter Burns, Jennifer DeRose, Russ Brown, Joe Piedmont, Courtney Beebe, Laurie Mauser, Jonathan Mueller and BOCC Recording Secretary Chandra Newberry.  
Courtney Beebe left the meeting at 3:53pm

**3. Introduce Guests:** There were no guests.

**4. Approval of Minutes:**

a. December 16, 2020 minutes – Courtney Beebe moved to approve the December 16, 2020 minutes. Joe Piedmont seconded the motion. The motion was carried.

b. January 20, 2021 Minutes – Laurie Mauser moved to approve the January 20, 2021 minutes with corrections. Russ Brown seconded the motion. The motion was carried.

c. January 28, 2021 Minutes – Courtney moved to approve the January 28, 2021 minutes. Laurie seconded the motion. The motion was carried.

**B. Business (Action Items)**

**Agenda Item #1 – FY2021 CLG Grant Amendment/Survey Work**

a. Acting Chair Walter Burns explained that in 2020, there was grant that was received by the Commission for the Annual Conference for \$4,900. But, since the Conference did not happen, the grant money was reassigned last fall to the cougar gulch survey. The first 2021 grant to nominate Meadowbrook Hall for \$3,000 was submitted, but ISHPO notified that it was not eligible. Instead of awarding \$3,000 for the nomination, they granted \$7,000 for a general survey. So the Commission is looking for suggestions of what to use the \$7,000 for.

Acting Chair Burns asked for a sense of the Board and general comments related to use. The following comments were offered:

1. Laurie Mauser:    - Expand Cougar Gulch Survey  
                          - Use to meet needs of NE portion of county to update Bayview, Athol and Belmont.
  
2. Jennifer DeRose: - Farms of Cougar Gulch could be eligible and should be evaluated/ documented/recorded; need for coordination

with SHPO on eligible properties but look at the Gulch as beneficiary of funds including unique landscape features.

3. Walter Burns: - Cougar Gulch needs to be surveyed before any nominations & identification of a potentially eligible properties.

Acting Chair Burns closed out the discussion noting that no decision was required today, but wanted a sense of the Commission to carry forward as an agenda item for the next regular meeting for further discussion/deliberation.

### **Agenda Item #2 – Election of Officers**

- a. General discussion ensued about the need for committee members to review resumes/information on long-standing members to learn more about and review basic qualifications for leadership prior to voting. It was noted that the only position to fill may only be the Chair unless Acting Chair Burns is elected Chair, then a new Vice-chair would need to be elected as well. There was a general agreement to move this item to the next meeting for further action.

### **Agenda Item #3 – Garden District Update**

- a. Acting Chair Burns advised the Commission that Lisa Benschmidt was unable to prepare the press release as discussed by the Commission at the previous meeting, so he prepared a draft press release. He was unable to distribute prior to this meeting, so it will be on the agenda for final review at the next regular meeting.

### **Agenda Item #4 – Video Proposal**

- a. Joe Piedmont presented a proposed initiative/program for board consideration to produce a video series by the board for public consumption that would present little known historical items/happenings that could be placed/hosted on YouTube. He had written up an outline of such for the Commission to confirm interest/support and potential items for consideration; i.e. – sunken steamboats, submerged blacksmith shop, barns of Cougar Gulch. Acting Chair Burns noted the need for care in the recognition of CLG jurisdictions in selecting topics; general discussion produced the following points/concerns/questions:

1. Is transfer of use in grant funds for use a possibility?
2. What might the costs be for such an effort?
3. Where does the funding come from if grant money can't be used?
4. Will such a series lead to exploitation of cultural resources?
5. Money should really go into tangible resources or should we 'seed' an amount and look for match?
6. SHPO may not allow transfer
7. Video could educate public about exploitation issues
8. Does CLG mission cover a project like this?
9. CLG focus is usually on potential and real National Register resources

It was agreed to carry forward for more discussion at the next regular meeting as the proposal has merit.

### **Agenda Item #5 – Cougar Gulch Update**

- a. Acting Chair Burns noted that a consultant has been retained and we are moving forward with the project. Laurie Mauser noted that there may a slight delaying the consultant getting traction, as there is a bit of unfinished business on the Garden District the consultant must finish up before starting another project. Laurie Mauser suggested we take this bit of time to re-group and do a ‘windshield’ survey of Cougar Gulch to become more acquainted/familiar with the effort prior to formal kick off with the consultant. There was a general agreement from the Commission.

### **Agenda Item #6 – Pend O’Reille Press Release**

- a. Laurie Mauser gave a status on the proposed press release. We are still waiting on a confirmation letter from SHPO; not sure if they forgot to tell us or if an email sent to Robert Singletary last fall was misdirected. Laurie Mauser will determine what had happened, and will update the Commission at a later time.

### **Agenda Item #7 – Skip Fuller Proposal**

- a. Acting Chair Burns summarized the proposal for the new board members as it was related to the County budgeting process He noted it would be discussed at the next regular meeting.

**C. Open Floor :** No comments were offered or received

### **D. Adjourn**

There being no further discussion of agenda items or public comment, Joe Piedmont moved to adjourn the meeting; Jennifer DeRose seconded the motion. The motion was carried. Acting Chair Burns adjourned the meeting at 4:31 pm.

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Jonathan Mueller, Commission Secretary