



## GILPIN COUNTY HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

August 20, 2020

The Gilpin County Historic Preservation Commission convened virtually Zoom Meeting; no physical meeting was held.

**Call to Order:** Chair Johnson called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

**Quorum Call:**

- Present: Chair Bret Johnson, Vice Chair B. Travis Wright, Jack Hidahl, Susan Meade and Scott Danfelser
- Absent: Sarah Russell
- Staff Present: Stephen Strohming, Senior Planner; Tami Archer, Secretary/Liaison
- Additional Attendees: Kim Grant, Director, Most Endangered Places Program

**Agenda Review:** Chair Johnson reviewed the agenda. No changes were made.

**Minutes:** The minutes from the April 16, 2020 meeting were discussed. Vice Chair Wright moved to approve the minutes as presented. He was seconded by Commissioner Danfelser. The motion passed unanimously.

**Commissioner Resignation:** Chair Johnson noted that Sarah Russell had resigned. The vacancy is being advertised.

**Public Comment:** None

**New Business:**

**A. Frontenac Addudell Mine Complex National Register Nomination**

Secretary Archer presented the application for the nomination, noting the application was made by the property owners. She also noted that the Gilpin County Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) had reviewed the application at their July 24, 2020 meeting, and recommended approval of the application. There was some discussion regarding the importance of the complex. Vice Chair Wright moved to approve recommendation of the application, and was seconded by Commissioner Danfelser. The motion passed unanimously. Chair Johnson asked Secretary Archer to prepare a letter of recommendation and forward it to him for signature.

**Old Business:**

**A. 2020 FORUM Recap**

Chair Johnson and Vice Chair Wright both attended several sessions. Both agreed that the sessions were very good. Chair Johnson noted that the session presented by Mark Rodman was especially good. There was some discussion on the various sessions that were attended. Secretary Archer asked that both Chair Johnson and Vice Chair Wright provide written summaries of the sessions to go along with the grant reimbursement request.

**B. By Laws**

Secretary Archer noted that the revised by laws had been approved by the commission at the November 13, 2019 meeting, and it was decided to delay forwarding the document to the BoCC until after the new ordinance was adopted. Vice Chair Wright moved to reaffirm the approval of the document and to forward it to the BoCC for approval, and was seconded by Commissioner Danfelser. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **C. Historic Preservation Work Plan**

There was discussion regarding the proposed work plan. Commissioner Danfelser indicated he could like to be the champion for the cemeteries, and Chair Johnson indicated he would do the same for historic resource management. There was discussion on managing the funding and people resources aspects. Chair Johnson and Vice Chair Wright also indicated they would take on the Moffat Work Cabins project. There was discussion regarding the attention that needed to be given to survey responsibilities, and the need for grants to accomplish that. Chair Johnson indicated he would investigate grant possibilities for our next survey project and report back at the next meeting. He noted the importance of getting Nevadaville surveyed because it is part of the Black Hawk/Central city/Nevadaville Historic District. There was also some discussion regarding the “new” significance of Black Hawk related to gaming. Commissioner Hidahl pointed out that in essence gold is still being mined in Black Hawk and Central City – but now it is out of people’s pockets instead of the ground.

Commissioner Hidahl also noted that this list is very comprehensive, and very daunting. He is concerned how a lack of funding and staff could negatively impact these goals. There was discussion on what makes the most sense in these unprecedented times to pursue. Commissioner Meade suggested a focus on writing grants, and indicated she is willing to pursue training on grant writing to help. Mr. Grant noted that there are grant writing classes offered by Community Resource Center and others, and also suggested the book “Grant Writing for Dummies”, noting it is written by Dr. Beverly Browning, a highly successful grant writer.

#### **D. Redtail Cabins Update**

Chair Johnson noted that the final HSA reports have been submitted and are being reviewed. He also noted that the reports indicate both cabins are stable for now.

#### **E. Moffat Work Cabins**

The discussion turned to the status of the Work Cabins. Union Pacific is stalling the negotiations to transfer ownership of the cabins to the county. Mr. Grant suggested looking into a Brownsfield Assessment Grant to identify any risks. He also mentioned the possibility of obtaining a small amount of funding to mothball the cabins to keep them from deteriorating any further while the ownership transfer is being finalized, and suggested that Union Pacific could be agreeable to that as a gesture of good faith. He acknowledged that it would be helpful to start writing grant applications and said his office could offer some assistance with that. He also noted his office would be willing to write strong letters of support for any grant applications we develop.

There was some additional discussion regarding the lease Union Pacific has with the US Forest Service for the Moffat Tunnel Complex, and whether or not the Forest Service could use the lease renewal as leverage to entice Union Pacific to donate the cabins to the county.

Chair Johnson asked if there was additional business to discuss, and Commissioner Hidahl asked if it would be possible for the commission to have in-person meetings in the future. There was discussion regarding the challenges of virtual meetings and how virtual meetings tend to make decision-making more difficult. It was noted that the meeting room in the courthouse is very large and could accommodate the social



distancing requirements. Secretary Archer noted she would reach out to the county manager to see if it would be possible to obtain permission to host the meetings in person in the future.

Commissioner Hildahl shared information regarding a tour of the Bates-Hunter Mine and the Golden Gilpin Mill he was part of with the Central City Council. He noted it was highly informative. There was discussion of the possibility of having the same type of tour for this commission. Commissioner Hildahl said he would do some investigating and report back at the next meeting.

Chair Johnson noted that there was no additional business to discuss and asked for a motion to adjourn.

**Adjourn:** Vice Chair Wright moved to adjourn and was seconded by Commissioner Meade. The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Bret Johnson", written over a horizontal line.

Bret Johnson  
Chair