



Cherokee Historic Preservation Commission

Minutes of Meeting at the Cherokee Depot

Wed. July 24, 2024

Commissioners Present: Adamson, Pingel, Snapp, Busch-Mott, Wilberding, Greenwood, Samsel, Caldwell, Younie

Commissioners Absent:

Guests Present: Marilyn Samsel, Keith Wells, Boy Scouts Cole Meir and Alex Wells

1. Meeting called to order by Chairman Adamson at 5:20
2. Minutes of meeting from June 19, 2024 reviewed and approved. Motion to approve by Busch-Mott, second by Wilberding . All ayes.
3. MHI Land Sale Update:
John Nitz is hoping the whole sale will get dropped due to our flooding situation. Still no response from the state at meeting time.
4. Pillars at 500 Park St. (Fountain House entrance):
Barb has already reapplied for the grant. Grant committee meets again on July 25.
5. Updates on **Wilson Bldg**

Email from Foutch to Administrator Letsche summary:

June- Focus on outside cleanup, painting and some steel framing inside.

July- Complete sidewalks and new roof covering installed

August-Nov.- Interior framing, electrical, plumbing, HVAC rough in, all utility connections, install parking area subgrade gravels.

Winter 2024/2025- Final interior utilities, drywall, replacement windows

Spring 2025- Finish drywall, painting, interior finishes, cabinets, flooring. Parking lot paving.

Summer 2025- Final construction, cleanup, leasing.

Site plan has been sent for review and waiting for approval from city. As of 7-22-24, Foutch has also asked for 2 different variances regarding amount of green space and additional street parking.

Emails of communication with Foutch were provided to CHPC.

Foutch has been working on the Hwy 59 side to reopen the west entrance and steps. He also talked to Snapp about photos of original steps and entrance. Debbie Durham (Iowa Economic Development) is still hopeful that his funding will come through in September.

Busch-Mott and Wilberding: Grant that involves flood related restoration of specific properties?

Updates on **Brummer Bldg** from John Snapp:

Snapp: West storefront is done. New glass block window has been put in the back of the bldg. Rear entry is being reframed for doors. Comm Catalyst grant last payment has been completed.

Updates on **Lewis Bldg**: from Jim Adamson:

Zach Zoul now has the Lewis Hotel apartments 100% complete. Nothing new from him other than only one apartment has been leased (June).

6. Pilot Rock National Registry Update from Busch-Mott, Snapp:

Snapp: A preliminary request has been sent to SHPO. 30 day waiting period has come and gone so Snapp will likely send them an inquiry email.

7. History Week September 23-28, 2024

Chamber Coffee on Fri Sept. 20 at 9:30 at Depot or Brummer Bldg

Steele Mansion: Sat. Sept. 21st open house. We think we will charge \$20 and be available for 4 hours possibly 11-3. Cindy has already purchased booties.

John Caldwell: His daughter is a theater student at Dordt and is offering to have fellow students in period costume to offer live history as a service project. Martha is on board with Dordt kids in costume as greeters and maybe reading an introduction of the Steele family, read labels to guests, etc.

Snapp: Martha will be making some labels for some of the items in the home.

Pingel will be making advertising posters for the Steele home public tour following the preliminary Steele house tour with Martha.

Samsel: Shared a preliminary sample sign to post at the Steele Mansion and offered to have their business (Grin and Wear It) as the sign up point/pay for the tour. He also shared how they have organized similar events like this in the past using sign up sheets, cards given with a time slot on it, lemonade and cookies after the tour, etc.

The CHPC can apply for grant money to help the family get the home on the National Registry. This option can be presented to Martha Steele during history week.

Cherokee Public Library: Sunday Sept. 22 @ 2:00 at the Sanford Museum: Tyler Hahn presenting a murder mystery of Chester Brown.

Sanford Museum: Planning to do a Guy Gillette Exhibit to open in September for History Week. They have recently acquired some Gillette items with the help of Snapp and others.

Pilot Rock Tour Tuesday Sept. 24th @ 5:30: Sanford Museum Archaeologist Mark Anderson

Sept. 28th Fall Family Festival @ the Depot

8. Bills: none
9. Balance CHPC Account \$3602.79
10. Balance CFHP Account \$3021.47

11. Post Flood Update on plans for Skateboard Park from Cindy Wilberding:
Crew arrived back to Cherokee last week. The missing forms for the park were found. Whole project hoping to be done in Sept. with more fundraising needed.

12. 2024 Flood impact on residential and commercial bldgs., any historic bldg. impact, etc.:
No known damage of any historic bldgs. We would like a list of bldgs. being torn down so we can get pictures before they tear them down. The Yacht Club can be saved and rebuilt. Boy Scouts helped clean it up.

13. Communication with building owners of historic building deterioration and possible remedies:
Shared wall of Mudd on Main and Cardsmart is deteriorating. Russ Harvey has been contacted and they will be getting up on the roof of the Cardsmart building to take a look at water infiltration problem.

14. Discuss goals listed on 2023 Annual Report:
 - Award a plaque from CHPC to a local business or residential property owner to honor their work in the preservation of their property as part of our History Week event.
Samsel making another plaque to present to Steele family. All in favor.

 - Encourage at least 2 building owners in the Historic downtown commercial district to purchase National Registry plaques to be placed on their buildings.

 - Sponsor a workshop in Cherokee: training on Historic tax credits, grant writing, or window restoration. Maybe look into grant writing workshop with Allison Archambo.
15. Items not on the agenda:

New email inquiries?

Busch-Mott/Snapp: Doctoral students from London and Wyoming doing research on Ruth Adsit. She helped create the teaching program (Elementary Training Program 100 years ago) at the U of Wyoming.

Samsel: called Bob Spurlock-he is working on a second book and is almost done with it.

16. Next scheduled gathering for Wed. Aug. 28, 2024 at 5:15 at Steele House

Official CHPC meeting follow next Wed. on. Sept 4th @5:15 at depot

Motion to adjourn at 6:45 made by Snapp, second by Greenwood. All in favor.

Kerisa Pingel, Secretary

