

**CRIPPLE CREEK HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING JANUARY 24, 2013
MINUTES**

1. Call to Order and Roll Call.

Chairperson Petty called the meeting to order at 5:05 P.M. Commissioners Petty, Grainger, McDonald, Maberry, Batson, and Veatch were present. Alternate Schechter was present and was seated. HP & Planning Coordinator Stockton was present.

2. Approval of Minutes from Meeting on January 10, 2013.

Grainger moved to approve the minutes as written, Maberry seconded, and motion carried unanimously.

3. Presentation on 2013 Bennett Avenue Improvement Project, Jim Blasing.

Staff introduced interim Public Works Director, Jim Blasing, who introduced David Krauth, Senior Engineer of Parsons Brinckerhoff who is designing the streetscape for the 2013 Bennett Avenue Improvement Project. Krauth emphasized that their goal is to enhance Cripple Creek's historic identity; not create a new identity. The HPC received a printout of the PowerPoint presentation and had comments on several issues including bench design, width of street for traffic and deliveries, width of proposed sidewalks, streetlight design, ADA accessibility to historic structures and across Bennett Avenue where a historic crosswalk including stairs is being proposed to be eliminated. Commissioners cautioned Krauth to consider the free-roaming donkey herd when designs are drawn up! Consideration of including an overhead arched entrance feature was brought up; staff will research previous City Council minutes for what decision was made and get that information to Krauth. Blasing asked that one commissioner be appointed to a task force that would be informed of draft designs; Les Batson volunteered and the HPC agreed that he would represent the group. Staff will forward contact information to Blasing. **Maria Cunningham** (City Marketing and Events Manager), **Jim Druck** (Big Jim's Casino) and **Mike Mackey** (Mackey Masonry) were in the audience. Petty asked Cunningham what impact the new streetscape would have on marketing, events, and our parades. Cunningham stated she is very excited about the improvements on Bennett Avenue. She feels that narrowing the street and expanding the sidewalks will not negatively impact the City's events because there is still plenty of room for a parade to come down the street, and vendors can be set up on the widened sidewalks, while still providing ample space for pedestrians. Additionally, Cunningham stated that there are ways to improve Bennett Avenue without losing Cripple Creek's identity or historic feel. When discussing the timeline for construction and access to local businesses, Cunningham did confirm with the consultant, who agreed, that the proposed timeline was feasible by considering horizontal construction and performance incentives, and that access would be made to all the businesses through accommodations and horizontal construction. Petty stated that improvements will have to be done eventually because areas of sidewalks and the street are becoming dangerous. McDonald stated that her retail customers come to Cripple Creek because we are a quaint little town, not to walk our wide sidewalks or cross our narrow streets – they love it as it is. Batson questioned Druck on how the street construction would affect the casinos. Druck stated that the information that the casinos have received is that the construction would be done in a brief and staggered period of time; the construction schedule is to repave the streets and get the sidewalks done with a minimum of disruption to pedestrian access. He would be extremely concerned about extending the timeframe.

4. Discussion of Historic Preservation Commissioner Term Expiration and Reappointment.

Staff stated that the terms of McDonald, Goll, Veatch and Batson expire on March 1st and that there is one alternate position available. McDonald, Veatch and Batson stated that they wish to be reappointed; Goll was absent so staff will contact him regarding reappointment. Alternate Schechter is willing to remain in her position. There was no public comment.

5. Discussion of Changing HPC Meeting Dates.

Staff stated that changing the HPC meeting dates to the first and third Thursdays would facilitate a quicker processing of applications that require City Council approval. Commissioners all agreed to meet once each month on the first Thursday and if a Special Meeting is necessary before the next regular meeting that it could be set on a needs basis. The new meeting schedule will start March 7, 2013. There was no public comment.

6. Continued Discussion of 2013 Grant Guidelines and Application Revision.

Staff stated that revision of forms is in progress and requested volunteers for a committee to meet on specific layout. McDonald, Batson and Veatch volunteered. Staff will schedule a meeting ASAP. There was no public comment.

7. PowerPoint Presentation on Completed 2012 Residential Grants.

Staff presented the three completed residential grant projects which included the first window restoration project by Phoenix Windows at 106 Hayden Street. Some concern was brought up regarding the final finish for the foundation at 404 S. First Street; at this time the new walls are roughly covered with OSB. Staff will contact the owner on this issue. There was no public comment.

8. Commission Comment.

Schechter – Stated that it is very important for the HPC to be involved in the upcoming Bennett Avenue Streetscape Project.

Petty – Does not want planters along Bennett Avenue.

Batson – Asked what materials would be most appropriate for sidewalks and brought up issue of streetlights and construction timeline.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:55 PM