

MEETING MINUTES

HAILEY ARTS & HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

SPECIAL MEETING

Tuesday, November 15, 2022 at 3:30 PM

To be held at Hailey City Hall and virtually via GoTo Meeting

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Present: Michele Johnson, Toni Whittington, Gwen Mesce, Herbert Romero, Kristin Anderson, Joan Davies, Carol Waller, Frank Rowland **Staff:** Robyn Davis, Cece Osborn **Guests:** Jessica Mayne, Ava Scanlan

3:35 pm Johnson calls the meeting to order

New Business

1. Brainstorming on Chinese-American Heritage Project
 - a. Guests: Jessica Mayne and Ava Scanlan
 - b. Presentation, part 1:
 - i. Scanlan:
 1. Introduces herself, staff person at the Sun Valley Museum of Art
 2. Intention and appreciation of the Commission's desire to "hold onto the history" of Chinese/Asian American Heritage in Hailey in the spirit of "remembering as to not forget and repeat itself"
 3. Grateful and eager to be involved
 - ii. Mayne
 1. Shared a story of encountering a plaque that is commemorative of Chinese/Asian American Heritage nearby Baker City, OR
 - a. Desire to see something similar and improved in Hailey
 - i. Something noticeable, not as minimal and overlooked
 2. Idaho had a significant Chinese/Asian American population in the 19th century
 3. After reading the Idaho Mountain Express articles, Mayne was motivated to do something—if not her, one of the few people of

Chinese/Asian American descent in the valley, then who would spearhead a commemorative project?

- c. Commission discussion
 - i. Johnson and Waller: historical evidence of Chinese/Asian American Heritage in Hailey is limited
 - ii. Scanlan: Much of such historical evidence was erased in the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882
 - iii. However, there is some evidence and documentation. Examples:
 - 1. Blaine County Museum resources
 - 2. Scanlan: Books
 - a. [Fusang, the Chinese who build America](#)
 - b. [The Vanishing: Re-presenting the Chinese in the America West](#) (Sun Valley Center for the Arts Exhibition catalog) I can bring a copy, or happy to send one over.
 - 3. Mayne: PBS Special
 - a. [Forgotten Neighbors: Idaho's Chinese Immigrants](#) – PBS documentary
 - 4. Mass gravesite in the Hailey Cemetery
 - a. Davies: Could this be a potential project location?
 - iv. Potential project locations:
 - 1. Rowland: would like the project to be central to downtown, not off the beaten path; perhaps located on River Street
 - 2. Existing city property, like the Town Center West building, in proximity to Draper Preserve and China Gardens
 - v. Romero: would like to hear from the guests more about what is important to them in a project, more about what they would like to see
 - d. Guest presentation, part 2:
 - i. Powerpoint from Mayne showcasing a garden and structure in Pocatello, commemorating the Asian-American heritage and honoring traditionally Asian aesthetics
 - ii. She'd like to see something like this in proximity to China Gardens, perhaps at Draper Preserve
 - iii. Ask the WRLT about the possibility of retrofitting the existing pagoda
2. FY22 and FY23 Budgets
 - a. Osborn: The utility box wrap and phone booth panels were not completed in time to be paid for with FY22 monies. It was not for lack of trying.
 - b. Commission discussion:
 - i. Johnson: in the current conditions of the employment and housing crises, the Commission needs to finalize their project plans with more time in advance. I.e. obligate all money and finalize project plans by July, so that vendors and City Staff have sufficient time to get through all the logistics of actualizing the projects
 - ii. Waller: Why wasn't John Zender given a greater deposit, to have better positioned the Commission to spend all of the FY22 budget?

1. Multiple projects were up in the air at that point, the utility box and phone booth projects were anticipated to be completed before the end of FY22
 2. John Zender did not complete the mural until the end of October, the deposit was only intended to cover materials and travel costs
 - iii. Staff anticipates that approximately \$4,000 remain in the FY23 budget
 - iv. FY23 will have less project money, but still have access to maintenance monies
3. Phone installation
 - a. Plan to review this at the January meeting with FY23 budget numbers
 - b. Romero: no need to install a recording if it is too expensive
 - c. Quick Google search, phone recording possibilities and estimated costs look within reach and worthwhile

Old Business, In-Progress & Status Reports

1. Adoption of the Meeting Minutes from October 11, 2022 -- **Action Item**
 - a. Amend the minutes to include Mesce's project idea for temporary art on Mountain Rides' buses and the Commission's priority to spend monies on permanent art installations
2. Sage School due to present at City Council on Nov. 28th

Possible Discussion Topics for next Agenda

1. FY23 Project List
 - a. "Wall of Heroes" Mural idea for Town Center West
 - i. Staff to explore that possibility with City leadership; there might be contradicting plans for that building
 - b. Plaque project along River Street
2. What happens to monies that go into bucket of 1% from CIP?

4:30 pm Adjourn