

CITY OF OWEN
Historic Preservation Committee
Minutes
Wednesday, May 26, 2021 AT 6:30 pm.
Old City Hall, 219 N. Pine St.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Mauel at 6:30 pm.

Present were: John Mauel, Travis Rogers, Nicole Rogers, Jackie Reinke and

Tim Swiggum. Absent was Jerry Fults.

Public present were Cindy Cardinal and Mary Ellen Hughes.

Goals and Objectives:

The committee discussed the need for a direction to take and that the committee should have some ideas to share regarding our plans. The following list are ideas brought up and is not considered to be all inclusive: Preserve history for public viewing through an organized museum; gather historical archives, preserve and organize them; availability to be open regular hours for viewing the archives/museum; enhance the cultural aspects of our community; update displays regularly so people come back often; celebrate the lumber town and railroad history; religious institutions history; educational resources to the school and public; and promote the gathering of historical items and stories from the past. Recordings made from long time citizens of Owen are something that should be continuous as we are losing those stories each generation. Museum and sites should be interactive.

City Owned Historical Buildings:

City Hall, 219 N. Pine St. and F.N.E. Depot:

After some discussion, the idea of using these two building for historical preservation make sense and the committee should have a plan in place and an idea of the best practices to utilize these two properties before asking the city for the use of the buildings or outright ownership by a non-profit Historical Society type entity.

Other Historic Sites:

Other sites of interest that would be recognized by the committee as historical and within the scope of the Owen Historic Preservation Committee: Old School, St. Katherine's, Woodland Hotel, Finnish Lutheran Church, A.R. Owen House, Badger Shooters/Owen Lumber Company Store, Middle block of downtown. Yellowstone Trail is also a big part of our history.

Formation of Historical Society:

The consensus was that we need to form a non-profit Historical Society type entity. It does not have to be named as such but would allow for fundraising to cover expenses while providing a tax-exempt status. Which type of non-profit is best suited for us and the need for bylaws will be in the forefront of the formation of the group. Tim will look at other historical entities bylaws and glean what he can to create a draft of bylaws for a historical non-profit.

Promotion and Fundraising Plans:

Creation of a Facebook Page seemed to be the most crucial to getting the word out initially. Holding an auction or some type of "Charter Member" fundraiser would be a good start. Once we have formed the non-profit the CWAIC has voted to donate their remaining funds to the 501(c)3 status. It is close to \$10,000.

Partner with County/State/Federal Historical Societies:

It would be good to have them attend our meeting when they are available.

Set Committees:

No committees were set at this time.

Next HPC meeting: June 23, at 6:30 pm, at the New City Hall.

Meeting adjourned by Mauel at 7:54 pm.