



**Great Falls-Cascade County
Historic Preservation Advisory Commission**

January 14, 12:00 PM

**Great Falls Civic Center
PCD Conference Room Suite 112**

Agenda

Public comment always welcome!

1. Approval of Meeting Minutes – November 12, 2025
 - Action Item with Public Comment
2. Election of Officers
 - Action Item with Public Comment
3. HPO Report to the HPAC
4. St. Peter's Mission Report
5. Boston and Montana Barn
 - Proposal for Fencing – Action Item with Public Comment
 - HPAC Letter of Support for FMH Grant – Action Item with Public Comment
6. Montana History Foundation Grant
 - Request for Matching Funds – Action Item with Public Comment
7. Semiquincentennial Report
8. Vinegar Jones Cabin Committee Report
9. Reports from Commissioners
10. Public Comment
11. Adjourn Meeting

HPO Report to HPAC

January 2025

Great Falls Growth Policy Update

A draft growth policy has been released and the City is seeking public comment. The entire document may be viewed and comments submitted at www.futuregreatfalls.com. The City is also holding a series of open houses, and the details are available on that site.

Union Bethel AME Church Pass-through

The \$20,000 pass-through grant to the Union Bethel AME Church has submitted its final payment, and is being closed out. This supported extensive redesigns needed to rework the scope of the project to fit available funding while still meeting the building's needs.

Architecture & Engineering Records for SHPO

It's grant season for everyone else, too! I have completed an AER form for King Bridge on the River's Edge Trail for Park & Recreation, and one for 1118 2nd Ave S for CDBG.

Tax Increment Financing

No new applications.

In the process of closing out books for 613 Central Ave., 208 Central Ave., 426 Central Ave., and 400 2nd Ave S.

Preserve Montana Window Workshops

Preserve Montana is offering to travel and give day-long workshops on historic window preservation geared toward homeowners and tradesmen. They have quoted us \$2,517.98 and have inquired about our interest. If the Commission would like, I will follow up.

HPAC Meeting Minutes November 12, 2025, 12 PM

Present: Ken Robison, Rich Ecke, Jeanne Price, Megan Sanford, Ken Sievert, Megahan Kelly, and Channing Hartelius

Staff and Commissioners: Joe McKenney, Sam Long, and Eric Hinebauch.

Public: Chris Christianson, Dan Johnstone, Brooke [last name missing]

1) Approval of Meeting Minutes – October 8, 2025

Changes: Delete names of donors and add those who adjourned the meeting (names were missing)

Motion to accept minutes with suggested changes: Ken R.

2nd: Rich E.

2) HPO Report to the HPAC

-Downtown TIF for 613 Central Ave and 201 2nd Ave South

-CLG Semiannual report submitted

3) Preservation Ornament Design Preview

Should be in by Thanksgiving, price is \$20.

Motion to accept the design: Ken R.

2nd: Megahan K.

4) December Social/Meeting

Location: Arvon? Museum?

Dec 4th or 11th – a Thursday

5) Boston and Montana Barn Plan

-Rich Ecke reports the City commission Report will be turned in today.

Some updates to the cover letter and a letter from the County to grant access to the barn.

Motion for Submission: Ken R.

2nd : Megan S.

-Rich spoke of the 10th Street Bridge as being an example of preservation vs. demolition.

-Channing Hartelius asked if the 50,000 that would be required to tear down the barn could go towards the barns' preservation. Joe McKenny said he was not sure, but commented about stabilization and repair/ not restoration and gave tips for addressing the commission.

-The committee is still waiting on a report from Tony Houtz as well.

6) Semiquincentennial 2026 – Ken Robison

-Major Projects to either do or complete:

- Barn

- National Historic Landmark of the Dams/Falls

- Short term project – National Register for the Library

Motion to do these projects: Ken R.

2nd: Ken S.

- Megan S. asked about what the boundaries for the National Historic Landmark designation would be, Ken R. was unsure.

- Sam L. said there have been nominations written already, but they were never submitted. The owner of the dams, NorthWestern Energy, would also need to be consulted.

- Jeanne P. asked if we would hire someone to do the nominations for both the NHL and the NR.

- Sam L. said she could do the NR for the Library but would have to hire someone for the NHL.

- Joe Mc. Said the library is raising 13 million for its remodel so we should do the NR nomination.

7) Montana History Grant

- Megan S. suggested an interpretive sign for the County Poor Farm to be put in Verde Park.

- Ken R. wanted the Vinegar Jones Cabin signs to be redone.

- Sam L. wanted an interpretive sign downtown.

- Decided to submit for a plethora of signs to cover all the wants.

Motion for a suite of signs: Megan S.

2nd: Meghan K.

8) St. Peter's Mission Signs Report

- Ran into a problem coordinating between RED HORSE volunteers and City policy.
- Andrew Finch is helping with the City/County, and there may be some county help to put the signs in before Thanksgiving.

9) Vinegar Jones Cabin Committee Report

- Ken S. reported he was in touch with Steve Taylor, but they will wait till spring to apply the coating that was selected.

10) Reports from Commissioners

- Ken S. – Webinar defending the NHP Act and section 106 – on Nov 19th
- Ken R. – Dec 2nd the new Montana Heritage Center in Helena opens at 3pm, Dec 3rd at 9am it is open to the public. Research center would be sometime in April 2026.
- Megan S. – Montana Antique fair this Friday 12-8 pm at the History Museum.
- Channing H. – New Ken Burns Documentary November 18th
- Rich E. – City Meeting on Nov 18th at 530 pm.

11) Public Comment

- Brooke – Keep up the good work

12) Adjourn Meeting

Motion: Ken S.

2nd: Meghan K.