

City of Sidney
Historic Preservation Board Meeting
February 11, 2014

The City of Sidney Historic Preservation Board Meeting was called to order by the chairperson of the board at 11:35am and the Open Public Meetings Act was announced.

Roll call: John Phillips, Rich Phillips, Dave Faries, Brandy Root, Greg Huck, and Kay Hicks
Additional attendees: Brad Rowan, Gary Person, Shelley McCafferty, and Megan McGown

Review of Handbook: McCafferty provided an overview of the draft of the Preservation Handbook, specifically highlighting the purpose, which is to create a single preservation document, update program/ordinance, update the Historic District Map, improve processes, and simplify guidelines.

She noted that there would be significant changes to the ordinance including adding demolition by neglect section. She suggested adding an emergency stabilization preservation grant and a certificate of no material effect. She also suggested that the board change the facade enhancement area to state:

“any historically significant building within the city limits that is used for commercial purposes”.

She suggested changing Sidney Glass to non-contributing in our local designation/local landmark. **This will mean that when we do our guidelines we can make exceptions.**

McCafferty also recommended that in accordance with the Preservation Plan that was completed last year, an appropriate next project for a CLG Grant would be for either a survey along Hwy 30 or to do an upper floor feasibility study. McGown will prepare a grant in the direction the board chooses to be voted on at the March meeting.

Additional items that the handbook will address are:

Process

- application to reserve grant funding
- application for historic review
- application for reimbursement

The handbook will include an explanation of the preservation program and process as well as provide a checklist for applicants.

Guidelines

- improve legibility
- eliminate redundancy

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- add reference system
- 3 prioritized principles
 - preserve and maintain (certificate of no material effect) e.g repaint
 - retain and repair (cert of no material effect)
 - replace and reconstruct (cert of approval) . E.g cornice replace or reconstruct

She stated that Historic review should be based on historic context and explained in the handbook

In order for this to happen, she suggested improving the knowledge of HPB members.

McCafferty trained HPB members on historic context, styles, features, periods. She will continue training during the March HPB meeting.

With all business being addressed, the meeting adjourned at 1:20pm