

Murray City History Advisory Board
Minutes for February 26, 2020

Attendance: Laurel Shepard, Rebecca Santa Cruz, Pam Benson, Wendy Parsons Baker
Staff: Lori Edmunds, Katie Lindquist, Jennifer Broschinsky

I. Minutes for November 20, 2019 were approved with a few edits.

II. Board Reports –

Rebecca wrote a letter, addressed to Mayor Camp and City Council Members, from the board stating their concerns about the elimination of the Historic Preservation Code from the MCCD Ordinance. Letter is included into the minutes. She mentioned that part of the rush to get the ordinance rewritten was that two of the sitting City Council members would be leaving and she thought the City wanted to get the ordinance resolved before the newly elected councilwomen were sworn into office. Rebecca talked with newly elected Rosalba Dominguez and felt she would be an ally for future endeavors. The board briefly discussed the Murray First Ward and the buildings on State Street that were in the MCCD Zone and felt that the property owners had a right to do what they wanted with the buildings. They felt it wrong to suggest that the City held any responsibility.

III. Staff Reports:

- Story Map – Katie reported on the completion of the Story Map online project with the help of the GIS Department. She showed the board the program on the laptop and how to toggle between the different buildings. Rebecca (or Laurel) suggested that historic buildings that are either removed from the register or demolished should be added to the story map to preserve the memory of the building.
- Display Cases update – Jennifer reported that two out of the four display cases are completed, Police and Water displays. The Facilities Department wants to switch out the lightbulbs in the final two display cases and Jennifer is waiting for them to finish before installing the Fire and Power displays. There has already been positive feedback on the two completed displays.
- Museum update – Jennifer reported that she has finished cataloging the photo collection. She will be pulling data together to show how many photos are originals versus copies. Staff will be preparing a grant to digitize the collection.
Jennifer has a school tour scheduled for end of March and finding it difficult for volunteer docents to sign up. She has noticed a decline in teachers booking tours and wonders if new teachers are not aware of the opportunity.
- StEPs update – Katie reported that the “Historic Structures and Landscapes” module is complete. The last workshop took place at Fort Douglas Military Museum where they were able to tour the grounds and learn about its history. The next module will be “Interpretation”. This will help us know how to properly and effectively interpret our collections.
- Theater update – Lori reported that Hogan construction company has started selective demolition to help uncover hidden structural problems in the building. They also removed the ticket booth as it was not historical or original – a post on social media was put out to alleviate any questions from the public. The light fixture inside the booth was not saved. The city hired Pathways Associates to put together a funding plan. Lori is starting to work on a business plan for the theater. The theater is scheduled to be completed by Spring 2021;

however, it is recommended to have a soft opening at that time and prepare a grand opening by Fall 2021. That will give staff time to schedule and work out any kinks with the theater, as well as planning for a new budget year.

Wendy Parsons Baker suggested to have Sundance use the theater. Rebecca Cruz's neighbor works for Sundance and will work on reaching out. She also has connections with the Utah Film Commission. Pam Benson suggested we hold documentary film festivals at the theater once complete. She attended one in St. George and was impressed with the event.

Wendy asked about the piano in the theater. Lori reported that the Facility Director, Jeff Martin, had a piano expert assess the piano and recommended the city not restore it.

- Mansion update – Lori reported that she plans to hire someone to conduct a space assessment of the mansion. There is not enough money at this time to conduct a feasibility study of the interior as was done to the outside envelope. Facilities plans to replace the roof in Spring 2020. Parks Department will remove the vegetation and sprinklers away from the base of the mansion and help mitigate water absorption and damage.

Moving the museum to the mansion will take place once the new city hall building is complete – roughly 2 years.

IV. Business:

- Bylaws – Lori asked for this item of business to be tabled for March meeting, board approved.
- 5-year goals – Lori reported the completed 2019 projects and reviewed items listed under the 2020 and beyond projects/goals.

V. Other