Rapid City Historic Preservation Commission

Draft Strategic Planning Mission Document

Overview
The Rapid City Historic Preservation Commission (RCHPC) has engaged Vantage Point Historical Services, Inc. (VPHS) to assist in updating its Historic Context Report and Comprehensive Plan. As part of this broader project, VPHS facilitated a strategic planning session with members of the RCHPC in July 2019. Based on that discussion, this document first offers a proposed revision to the RCHPC’s mission statement, along with three core goals and objectives around which the Commission can structure, execute, and measure its work going forward. In Phase II of the update project, VPHS will incorporate this mission and concomitant goals into the RCHPC’s Comprehensive Plan.

To demonstrate the framework upon which this revised mission statement is based, the latter sections of this document summarize the July 2019 strategic planning discussion and offer a brief overview of the RCHPC’s priorities for the coming decade, as well as an appendix showing the RCHPC’s review of its 2009 goals.
Section A: Revised Mission Statement

The Historic Preservation Commission enhances quality of life in Rapid City by engaging in activities that protect historic structures and sites and cultivate a shared understanding of the community’s history and culture.

Goals and Objectives:

Be a resource for community members interested in learning about, preserving, and promoting Rapid City history

- **Educate** community members about Rapid City’s history and the programs, incentives, and opportunities available for preserving and engaging with it.
- **Partner** with property owners to help them make decisions that protect historic properties while preparing them for modern use.
- **Promote** inclusivity by recognizing the many strands of Rapid City’s history and allowing newcomers to feel like they are part of the community.
- **Recognize** the challenging aspects of Rapid City’s history and encourage dialogue that facilitates reconciliation and understanding.
- **Support** the needs of the tourism industry by giving visitors the opportunity to experience various sites and structures that contribute to a sense of place in our community.
- **Share** stories about successful preservation projects that saved important assets, encouraged community dialogue, or rejuvenated a historic or cultural space.

Protect Rapid City’s historic and cultural resources

- **Document** significant historical and cultural spaces throughout Rapid City.
- **Advocate** for thoughtful, creative, and collaborative decisions that preserve the integrity of Rapid City’s historic and cultural resources as the community grows.
- **Collaborate** with community groups and public and private museums, libraries, and cultural institutions to explore Rapid City’s history.
- **Envision** how Rapid City will continue to grow and change while integrating a sense of history to strengthen the community’s future.

Strengthen opportunities for protecting historic and cultural resources

- **Align** the objectives of the RCHPC with the City of Rapid City’s long-range plans.
- **Review** zoning rules, design guidelines, and existing incentive programs to enhance opportunities for community engagement.
Create programs and achievable benchmarks that community members can use as they undertake updates, rehabilitations, or restorations of historic properties.

Articulate an architectural vernacular across neighborhoods and business districts to incentivize aesthetic cohesion.