Minutes of the January 25, 2017
Rapid City Historic Preservation Commission Meeting

Members Present: Jenn Johnson, Eric Monroe, Tim Smith, Clancy Kingsbury, Brittany Neiles and John Riker

Members Absent: Ali DeMersseman and Alternates Chris Wehrle and Carol Saunders

Others Present: Sarah Hanzel, Jeanne Nicholson, Alex DeSmidt and Ritchie Nordstrom, City Council Liaison

Monroe called the meeting to order at 7:49 a.m.

Approval of Meeting Agenda
Monroe requested to add the Façade Easement Program and the Downtown Area Architectural Survey as items under Old Business.

Kingsbury moved to approve the agenda with the noted additions. The motion was seconded by Smith and carried unanimously.

New Business

Founders Park Master Plan
Alex DeSmidt, Parks and Recreation, gave a brief update on the Founders Park North (Rock) area and reviewed the history of the Rock and the engravings. He noted that Founders Park North is a transition area between the park land and the residences. He reviewed the locations and the history of the hydro plant, the sawmill and the feed yard. DeSmidt explained that the structure was removed but the foundation remains and is not eligible for the National Register. He advised that the Master Plan recommends removing the foundation because it is in disrepair and falling apart and that it hinders recreation facilities in this immediate area. He noted that improvements were made to the southern area of the park at the same time the bridge was installed. He noted that right now the bridge leads to a gravel area that was the former parking area for the hydro plant and the Master Plan recommends making enhancements to this area. He further noted that the Rock was digitally scanned but nothing has been done to it to physically protect it. He explained that the Master Plan identifies the Rock as the focal point in addition to native vegetation restoration, walking paths, concrete paths, park features and story boards with historic information. He noted that short term improvements would be to remove the foundation and to survey the area for historic documentation.

In response to question from Monroe, DeSmidt advised that there is no time table for the removal of the foundation but the Parks Department hopes to complete the removal sometime this year. He added that a Conditional Use Permit application would likely need to be submitted and approved for the excavating of the site. He noted that any archeological and Native American attributes will be retained if discovered. He added that once the Conditional Use Permit is approved, a plan will be determined for the excavation of the site and then funding resources for the project will need to be determined. Discussion followed.

In response to comments from Johnson, DeSmidt stated that the goal is to take away the hiding places and to place additional lighting in this area and along the paths.
In response to comments from Nordstrom, DeSmidt stated that there will be timeline storyboards similar to the floodway signs.

In response to a question from Johnson, DeSmidt explained that no determination has been made about whether to allow climbing on the rock or if the rock should be preserved for its historic attributes.

DeSmidt commented that the Founders Park Master Plan will be presented to other groups throughout the City for their input.

In response to a question from Kingsbury, DeSmidt advised that all historic features have been accessed and will be preserved. He added that the plan does not draw a lot of attention to these sites but further review will be completed prior to any plans for improvements being finalized.

Provide comments to State Historic Preservation Office regarding proposed changes to Contributing/Non-Contributing status of some properties in the West Boulevard Historic District
Hanzel advised that the State has notified the City and property owners about proposed changes to the Contributing/Non-Contributing status of some properties in the Historic District. She noted that she has only been contacted by one owner about the proposed change to their property. A brief discussion followed.

In response to a question from Monroe, Hanzel advised that the next step will be the State submitting their proposed changes to the National Park Service for approval. She added that because there are no proposed boundary changes, the City does not need to take action on the proposed changes. She added that she would contact the State about some of the Commission’s questions regarding garages.

Change regular meeting time to 8:00 am
Monroe explained that several members have suggested that the meeting time for the Historic Preservation Commission meetings be changed to 8:00 a.m. He noted that the Commission would have approximately 45 minutes to attend to the agenda items to ensure that staff has enough time to set up for the 9:00 meeting. A brief discussion followed.

Kingsbury moved to have the Historic Preservation Commission meetings start at 8:00 a.m. The motion was seconded by Riker and carried unanimously.

Old Business

Picture RC Past website and www.rchpc.info website
Hanzel advised that she has visited the business sites and noted that about half of the QR Codes are missing. She added that she has visited with TDG Communications, website hosting company, and they will reprint the missing QR codes.

Monroe suggested creating a walking diagram map identifying historic locations to distribute to tourist groups and residents.

Neiles advised that there is an app “What Was There” that is available which identifies addresses and businesses and is fairly easy to use. She noted that the app can be used for the entire City, not just historic properties.
Monroe requested volunteers for a subcommittee to determine the best way to manage the websites and to get information out to the public.

Hanzel commented that the text and photographs on the www.rchpc.info website have been documented and saved.

Neiles stated that the subcommittee could work with Black Hills Knowledge about promoting historic preservation and to determine what sources are available.

In response to a question from Riker regarding the City’s website, Hanzel reviewed the current Historic Preservation Commission page.

Kingsbury expressed his support for the www.rchpc.info website.

Hanzel advised that there have not been a lot of viewers using the www.rchpc.info website. She added we would need to train an individual to regularly update the website and would also need to find a way to promote the website.

Nordstrom commented that Robert Sharp and Associates would be helpful in making changes to the website. He recommended that the Commission work with the Minneluzahan Senior Citizens Center about obtaining historic information and updating the website. Hanzel advised that there is no formal working relationship with them at this time.

Additional discussion followed regarding ways to promote historic preservation.

Neiles, Johnson and Kingsbury volunteered to serve on a subcommittee to address different ways to promote historic preservation.

Monroe requested the subcommittee to report back to the Commission at the next meeting.

Riker suggested that the subcommittee request a representative from Black Hills Knowledge to attend the next meeting. Johnson advised that she would contact them.

**Facade Easement Program**

Monroe expressed his opinion that the subcommittee that worked on the presentation for Vision Funds should regroup and move forward with pursuing funding opportunities for the program in 2017. A brief discussion followed.

Smith, Kingsbury and Nordstrom volunteered to serve on the subcommittee. Kingsbury requested that the Facade Easement Program be added to next month’s agenda. Riker suggested maybe having a working group session.

**Downtown Area Architectural Survey**

Hanzel informed the Commission that the consultants have completed surveying the properties and that they are working on the draft report. She added that an open house will be held in February and that the notices to property owners should be sent out in the next couple of weeks. She recommended that a bigger location be found for the upcoming open house.

**11.1 Reviews – Summary from December 7, 2016 to January 17, 2017**

1116 West Boulevard is a contributing structure in the West Boulevard Historic District. An application was submitted to construct a small addition at the rear of the home and construct a
Hanzel briefly reviewed the application and photographs and noted that the application was to construct an addition and a garage.

**Treasurer’s Report through December 31, 2016**
Hanzel briefly reviewed the expenditures and the remaining budget balance.

**Approval of Minutes**
Riker moved to approve the December 14, 2016 meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Johnson and carried unanimously.

Nordstrom requested to add an item to an upcoming agenda to discuss future development at the parking lot located at the corner of Sixth and Saint Joseph Street. He added that the Commission’s perspective and historic review about development at this location would be important in the decision making for future development.

Riker moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:52 a.m. The motion was seconded by Kingsbury and carried unanimously.