



MINUTES OF THE CHAFFEE COUNTY HERITAGE AREA ADVISORY BOARD
THURSDAY September 28, 2017
Touber Building, Methodist Mountain Room

Members Present: Melanie Roth, Kay Krebs, John McCarthy, Emily Katsimpalis, Lee Coveney, Kristi Jefferson, Steve Harris, Susanna Spaulding, Steve Harris, Alison Ramsey

Absent: Nancy Roberts

Chair Melanie Roth called the meeting to order at 12:06 pm.

Approval of Minutes from August 17, 2017

Upon a motion by Steve Harris, seconded by Kay Krebs, the minutes of the August 17, 2017 meeting were approved as submitted.

2017 SHF Grant

Melanie Roth and Alison Ramsey hosted SHF personnel and Tom & Laurie Simmons of Front Range Research Associates during their visit to Chaffee County earlier this month. Melanie and the SHF personnel then visited Gas Creek School and discussed other locations in Garfield and Turret undergoing evaluation for nomination to the Register of Historic Places. Several ranch properties are under consideration, and will require an archeological survey for Native American and other hidden historical artifacts.

CLG Discussion

Melanie and Emily Katsimpalis discussed the advantages of a Certified Local Government designation for Chaffee County, which would be issued by History Colorado. The Town of Buena Vista recently has been designated a CLG, which allows access to State funds for preservation planning, survey, nomination, and educational activities, without the requirement for local matching funds. CLG's also may receive technical support from the state Historic Preservation Office and the National Park Service. Historic property owners in a CLG district are eligible for a 20% State Historic Preservation Tax Credit.

The record keeping requirements would necessitate a designated person at the County, perhaps full time. Emily will send the CCHAAB a copy of Buena Vista's CLG ordinance and comments on their nomination and approval process. Alison Ramsey stated that the CCHAAB could act as the CLG Commission, but her other duties as Executive Director of GARNA would not allow her the time to lead this initiative, however she is supportive of the effort. As a first step, the CCHAAB will arrange a conference call with Mark Rodman, CLG program contact at History Colorado.

Barn Restoration

Steve Harris is still anxious to work on a ranch restoration project and specifically the Hill Ranch barn but it was decided to put this item on the back burner for now.

Oral Histories with ranching families

Melanie Roth is still looking for a videographer. Susanna Spaulding indicated that her husband was starting a video documentary business and will put Melanie in contact with him to determine if he has an interest in this project. The Cogans, Everetts, and McMurrays, as long time ranching families, are target subjects.

General Outreach

Melanie Roth and Kay Krebs expressed their thanks for the excellent presentation by professional historian, Robert Autobee, at the smokestack centennial celebration.

Special Use Review

Lee Coveney and John McCarthy have been reviewing, on behalf of the CCHAAB, proposed subdivision plans forwarded by the County Planning and Zoning Commission. Most of the plans have no heritage or scenic byway issues, however the Lantz Minor Subdivision includes a proposal for a 14 acre solar garden along CR 140 adjacent to US 285. This would be very visible from the Collegiate Peaks Scenic Byway, and possibly block the viewshed toward the Mosquito Range on the east side of the valley. Lee, with the support of John McCarthy and Melanie Roth, submitted a response to the Planning Commission suggesting that a berm or tree planting along US 285 would help mitigate the solar array's effect on the viewshed. Lee will follow up and, if possible, attend the Planning Commission or BoCC hearing on this project.

Additional Project Ideas

John McCarthy raised the question of whether the CCHAAB will have a role in the Envision Chaffee County project. It was decided that the Board will not insert itself into the Envision preliminary process, but will be ready to respond to questions pertaining to County heritage or the Collegiate Peaks Scenic Byway. Individual Board members are encouraged to attend Envision meetings as citizens of Chaffee County.

Next Meeting

Thursday November 9, Touber Building in Salida

Melanie Roth adjourned the meeting at 1:30 pm