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A meeting of the Carson City Historic Resources Commission (HRC) was scheduled for 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 14, 2013, in the Carson City Community Center, Sierra Room, 851 East William Street, Carson City, Nevada.

PRESENT: Chairperson Michael Drews

Vice Chairperson Robert Darney

Commissioner Jed Block

Commissioner Elizabeth Dickey Commissioner Gregory Hayes

STAFF: Lee Plemel, Planning Director

Joseph Ward, Senior Deputy District Attorney

Vern Krahn, Park Planner

Tamar Warren, Deputy Clerk/Recording Secretary

NOTE: A recording of these proceedings, the Commission's agenda materials, and any written comments or documentation provided to the recording secretary during the meeting are public record, on file in the Clerk's Office. These materials are available for review, in the Clerk's office, during regular business hours.

- **A. CALL TO ORDER AND DETERMINATION OF QUORUM** (3:01:12) Chairperson Drews called the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m. Roll was called; a quorum was present. Commissioners Smit and Speulda were absent.
- **B. MODIFICATION OF AGENDA** (3:01:42) Chairperson Drews introduced the item. Mr. Plemel requested discussing item F6 prior to item F1.
- C. **DISCLOSURES** (3:02:33) Chairperson Drews introduced the item. Commissioner Dickey disclosed that she was a member of the Nevada State Prison Preservation Society (NSPPS). Chairperson Drews also disclosed that he had met with the NSPPS and had taken a tour on Friday, March 8, 2013.
- **D. PUBLIC COMMENTS** (3:03:00) Chairperson Drews entertained public comments; however, none were forthcoming.
- E. ACTION ON APPROVAL OF MINUTES (3:04:00) Chairperson Drews introduced the item. Commissioner Hayes moved to approve the minutes of the February 14, 2013 meeting. The motion was seconded by Vice Chairperson Darney. Motion carried 5-0.

F. PUBLIC HEARING MATTERS

F-1 **DISCUSSION ONLY** REGARDING HISTORIC **DISTRICT** DIRECTIONAL **AND** WAYFINDING SIGNS. (3:56:10) - Chairperson Drews introduced the item. Mr. Plemel gave background and introduced Patrick Pittenger, Carson City Public Works Transportation Manager. Mr. Pittenger explained that he, along with the Mayor and the City Manager, had met with the Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT) to discuss signage on NDOT-owned roads. He added that NDOT had agreed to do so; however not until the City had installed complementary signage on City streets. Mr. Pittenger explained that the purpose of the signs would be to direct visitors to the Historic District. He also showed several concepts that had been developed by City Engineer Rob Fellows, and solicited input on placement locations, noting that the dilemma would be directing visitors to a district and not to a certain building. Commissioner Hayes identified the distinction between the Carson City Historic District and the West Side Historic District, suggesting that street signs include identifiers on them as well. Discussion ensued regarding sign locations. It was agreed that Mr. Pittenger should meet with Mr. Plemel, Vice Chairperson Darney, and Commissioners Block and Dickey to find appropriate sign locations.

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- F-2 HRC-12-138 FOR POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE 2013 CARSON CITY HISTORIC PRESERVATION AWARD APPLICATION FOR OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENTS IN HISTORIC PRESERVATION. (4:13:16) Chairperson Drews introduced the item. Mr. Plemel presented a Staff Report, incorporated into the record, containing the Commission's nominees. Discussion ensued regarding the nominations before each Commissioner presented his/her recommendations and the results were tallied. Commissioner Hayes moved to select 411 N. Division Street (Fitzsimmons Property), 604 W. Robinson Street (Shefrin Residence), The Warren Engine Company's Chemical Fire Engine Renovation, "and two people of considerable merit, Jennifer Pruitt and Shelly Aldean". The motion was seconded by Commissioner Block. Chairperson Drews entertained additional discussion and citizen comments, and when none were forthcoming, a vote. Motion carried 5-0.
- F-3 HRC-13-020 ACTION TO RECOMMEND TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS A PROCLAMATION DECLARING THE MONTH OF MAY AS NATIONAL PRESERVATION MONTH. (4:32:52) Chairperson Drews introduced the item. Mr. Plemel presented a Staff Report and the proposed proclamation, both of which are incorporated into the record. He reminded the Commission that this was an annual occurrence, with "See it. Save it. Celebrate it." as this year's theme. Commissioner block moved to recommend that the Board of Supervisors proclaim the month of May as Historic Preservation Month. The motion was seconded by Vice Chairperson Darney. Motion carried 5-0.
- F-4 HRC-12-028 DISCUSSION ONLY REGARDING AN UPDATE OF THE HISTORIC PRESERVATION FUND (HPF) GRANT FOR 2012. (4:35:10) Chairperson Drews introduced the item. Mr. Plemel stated that the Requests for Qualifications (RFQs) had been prepared and would be sent out in search of a consultant specializing in archeological work.
- F-5 HRC-13-005 (CONTINUED FROM FEBRUARY 14, 2013 MEETING) FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: TO PROVIDE DIRECTION TO STAFF REGARDING THE APPLICABILITY OF HISTORIC DISTRICT STANDARDS TO FREESTANDING FLAG POLES PER THE CARSON CITY MUNICIPAL CODE, SECTION 18.06.015, PROCEDURE FOR PROPOSED PROJECT, AND OTHER APPLICABLE HISTORIC DISTRICT STANDARDS. (4:36:45) Chairperson Drews introduced the item. Mr. Plemel indicated that this item was agendized to discuss the Commission's role in reviewing the placement of flag poles. He wished to understand the standards for reviewing flagpoles to determine whether they would be handled in the same manner porches, fences, and other architectural criteria are reviewed. Chairperson Drews explained that a related request had been received and administratively approved, triggering this discussion. Mr. Plemel noted that this Commission would address the historical relevance; however, the City's zoning and other laws would address the traditional requirements. Vice Chairperson Darney suggested having input on the types of flags flown. Commissioner Dickey suggested having guidelines in order to facilitate administrative approvals. Commissioner Block also believed that the guidelines would reinforce the consistency message. Mr. Plemel agreed with the Commission's immediate suggestions and believed that the Planning Department could work on revised guidelines. Chairperson Drews suggested agendizing this topic to focus on parameters.
- F-6 FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: TO RECOMMEND TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS APPROVAL OF A RESOLUTION DATED JANUARY 25, 2013, REQUESTING THE STATE OF NEVADA TO PRESERVE THE DECOMMISSIONED NEVADA STATE PRISON AS AN HISTORIC PLACE WITHOUT OBLIGATING CARSON CITY TO ANY FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS FOR THIS EFFORT UNTIL THE STATE OF NEVADA AND ITS COMMUNITY PARTNERS HAVE DEVELOPED A COMPREHENSIVE PLAN, INCLUDING PROJECTED COSTS FOR THE PRISON'S HISTORIC PRESERVATION AND ITS FUTURE USES. (3:05:31) Chairperson Drews introduced the item. Mr. Plemel explained that this item had been agendized at the request of the Parks and Recreation Department. Mr. Krahn presented the agenda materials incorporated into the record, noting that Assemblyman Pete Livermore would sponsor a resolution in the 77th Nevada State Legislative session to support the preservation of the Nevada State Prison for the education of Nevada's citizens, for its "rich geologic, Paleozoic, anthropologic, architectural, and social history", and for its significant value as a tourist attraction and destination. Mr. Krahn introduced Tom Porada, Vice President of NSPPS, who also introduced NSPPS Board Member Myron Carpenter and Secretary Didi Chaney, who were in the audience. Mr. Porada gave historic background and delivered a presentation about NSPPS, adding that the organization did not want to see the prison in a state of disrepair.

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He also clarified that NSPPS was only interested in the historic portion of the prison, and wished to see it listed on the National Register of Historic Place. Mr. Porada credited Mr. Carpenter for his vision and extensive research of other decommissioned prisons. He also expected to apply for grants for future preservation work. Mr. Porada outlined several hurdles such as the availability of the execution chamber, which was the only one in the state, and the still-operational license plate factory. Mr. Krahn indicated that Staff supported the resolution; however, they did not recommend that the City make any financial commitments until a comprehensive plan was available.

(3:26:17) - Chairperson Drews entertained public comments. Mr. Carpenter cited past experience as a teacher in Southern California and explained that vacant buildings tended to get vandalized quickly. He gave the example of the preserved prison in Boise, Idaho that generated tourism, indicating that the weather in Carson City and the prison's proximity to the freeway would be a benefit to attract visitors. He also advocated using the prison gymnasium and dining room as fund raising venues. Commissioner Dickey clarified several historical facts for Commissioner Block. In response to a question by Commissioner Hayes, Mr. Porada stated that the prison had disabled inmates, therefore there were ramps within the prison, except to the execution chamber. Chairperson Drews suggested enlisting the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) to help with boarding the windows and doors to avoid vandalism and further deterioration. Discussion ensued regarding making the prison a redevelopment district. Mr. Krahn indicated that the Cultural Commission had discussed the idea of creating an artists' colony within the prison. Other ideas, such as a fire department museum, were also discussed. Chairperson Drews suggested changing the term Paleozoic to paleontological in the resolution. Commissioner Block commended that the NSPPS for starting with a non-profit status to raise funds, and advised of the ADA accessibility requirements. Ms. Chaney noted that this was one of the oldest continuously-operating prisons in the US, operating for over 150 years and recounted additional historic details, and appreciated a letter of support from the Commission. Chairperson Drews offered to attend the Prison Board meeting and cited his past experience with some of the misinformation about restrictions, during the listing of the Historic District in the National Register of Historic Places. Vice Chairperson Darney moved to recommend to the Board of Supervisors approval of a resolution dated January 25, 2013, requesting the State of Nevada to preserve the decommissioned Nevada State Prison as an historic place without obligating Carson City to any financial commitments for this effort until the State of Nevada and its community partners have developed a comprehensive plan, including projected costs for the prison's historic preservation and its future uses. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hayes. Motion carried 5-0.

G. STAFF REPORTS

PLANNING DIVISION STAFF REPORT TO THE HISTORIC RESOURCES COMMISSION. (4:50:43) – Chairperson Drews introduced the item. Mr. Plemel indicated that his staff was working on the scavenger hunt. He also reported that an offer was accepted to replace Ms. Pruitt.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS/COMMENTS. (4:52:28) – There were no reports by Commission members.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS (4:53:05) – Chairperson Drews introduced the item and suggested continuing agenda item F5.

- **H. PUBLIC COMMENTS** (4:53:13) Chairperson Drews entertained public comments; however, none were forthcoming.
- K. ACTION ON ADJOURNMENT (4:53:30) Chairperson Drews entertained a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Block moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hayes. The meeting was adjourned at 4:54 p.m.

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The minutes of the March 14, 2013 meeting of the Carson City Historic Resources Commission	are approved on this 16 th
day of May, 2013.	

Michael Drews, Chairperson