

**HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
Butte Silver Bow Council Chambers
5:30 P.M.**

March 8, 2022

Members Present: Steve Hinick, Mitzi Rossillon, Tracy Miller, John Riordan, Bobbi Stauffer, and John Weitzel

Excused Absence: Jennifer Petersen

Staff: Kate McCourt, HPO, Karen Byrnes

- i. **Call to Order:** The Historic Preservation Commission Meeting was called to order at 5:30 PM
- ii. **Roll Call:** One member absent, and a quorum established.
- iii. **Reading/Approval of Minutes:** Mr. Hinick motioned to approve the minutes for the January 11, 2022 meeting of the HPC; Mr. Riordan seconded the motion. The voice vote in favor of the motion was unanimous. Mr. Hinick motioned to approve the minutes for February 2022 meeting of the HPC; Mr. Weitzel seconded the motion. The voice vote in favor of the motion was unanimous.
- iv. **Public Comment – Items on Agenda:** None
- v. **New/Old Business: Introduction/ Conversation – Kate McCourt, Historic Preservation Officer for Butte-Silver Bow:** Mr. Hinich asked Karen to introduce the new Historic Preservation Officer for Butte-Silver Bow. Karen thanked the commission and introduced Kate McCourt. Kate has started her position with Butte-Silver Bow. We are working through all the logistics with getting her up to speed with all the technology. We are getting her a phone, computer and getting her settled into her office space. We are so lucky to have her. We are trying not to overwhelm her with too much information all at once. Many things just pop up; today we had the opportunity to tour a property that is on our mothball list. The County Attorney was finally able to get in touch with the property owner from Texas, they happened to be in town. We were able to go on that tour together, with the Community Enrichment Team as well. It was refreshing to see that the building was in much better condition than we originally thought it might be. So those kinds of things just come up. It's going to be great, and I'm thrilled to have her. We are just going to keep learning and moving forward. Karen said I just want to take this opportunity to introduce Kate to you officially. Karen said the other project they are getting her up to speed on is the Basin Creek house and the grants that we have for that house. We are working with our Public Works department on those bid

documents. Karen asked Kate if she would like to say anything. Kate said she was happy and excited to be here. This is a wonderful opportunity. Kate said some of you I know and some I don't so I would really like to speak with all of you one on one and get to know what your rolls are in the commission. Mr. Hinich asked if you would like I could ask our members to give a little introduction as to who they are and what they do. Mr. Hinich said I'm the Chairman, I'm a longtime local architect in town. I have designed several historic buildings, restorations, etc. I'm pleased to serve and protect our integrity, its and honor and I take it seriously. Ms. Stauffer said I'm a Butte native. I fell in love with buildings in uptown Butte when I covered local government for the Montana Standard newspaper. It was my favorite beat! That evolved into helping citizens for preservation and revitalization. I love the dust to dazzle every year. They feature historic properties and people get to tour them. I now work for Northwestern Energy in the regulatory affairs department. My primary roll has been to proofread the minutes. She told Kate if you need a proofreader call on me. I'm honored to serve. I love Butte's historic district and I'm happy to help save as much as possible. Mr. Rossillon spoke (speaker was off). Mr. Riordan said he is the Commissioner for District 8 and representative of this committee. Mr. Riordan said this is one of the best committees in the Butte government. These people work hard, and they know what they are doing, and you have a great director. I have been impressed with Karen's work and the work that proceeded her. I'm an old Butte guy and I really love uptown Butte. I had the privilege of selling papers when I was a kid. I had Broadway, Park, Main, and Granite. I've seen a lot of these building and a lot that were burnt down. We are looking forward to working with you. Ms. Miller said I'm the newest board member and I'm still learning my roll. It's been interesting to learn, and this committee is full of information. I go home and read on historical things that have happened in the past so I can learn. I serve in the real state roll. I'm a Broker/Owner here in Butte. I'm also an investor. I just made my first historic building purchase. I'm trying to rehab and save some buildings myself. I understand that not everything can be saved but if we can I'm for that. Mr. Weitzel spoke (speaker was off). Hr. Hinich thanked the commissioners. He said I would hope that you review our folder of ordinance and procedures. It's been very helpful to follow. We wish you the best luck and look forward to working with you. Kate said she has and will continue to read the ordinance. Ms. McCourt said she had this roll for Great Falls Cascade County. This position in Butte is better, well rounded. More opportunities here. There is so many things to learn. I told Karen I'm going to need a list of what everything means. They didn't have all that Butte has. My career started in history and then into archeology for a long time. I fell into historic preservation and fell in love with the infer face of archeology and historic preservation. I believe there is a symbiotic relationship between the two. We will incorporate everything that we can into the preservation of Butte's built environment. That's what I would like to do. Mr. Hinich said thank you.

vi. Staff/Member Report: None

vii. Announcements: None

viii. Public Comment – Items Not on the Agenda: None

ix. Adjournment: Mr. Riordan moved that they adjourn. Mr. Hinick seconded the motion.