

San Miguel County Historical Commission

November 12th, 2024, 5:30 PM

Attendance:

HC Members Present: Ted Wilson, John Wontrobski, Bob Mather, Leise Durant, Matt Steen

HC Members Absent: Kiernan Lannon, J.J. Ossola

SMC Staff Liaisons Present: Janet Kask, Greg Pollio

Call to Order: 5:30 pm by Chairperson Ted Wilson

Approval of 7/9/24 HC meeting minutes: Adopted 11/12/24, moved by John Wontrobski, seconded by Bob Mather

Intro

- Introduction of Leise Durant as the newest member of the Historical Commission

Matterhorn Acquisition

- Still on schedule for the transfer from USFS to SMC in Sept. 2025
 - Still working on the list of 42 items that need to be divided between USFS and SMC
 - The next step is the appraisal process, which SMC will pay for
 - A land exchange is also in the mix for the acquisition
- The Pathfinder Gravel Pit affordable housing project is separate, but directly related to this project because they are adjacent
 - Both projects have affordable housing components

Matterhorn Mill Tram Cable Removal

- This process will include consultation from the Ute Tribe and the Ute museum in Montrose
- They will be assisting in putting together the history trunk that is proposed for this process
- Kiernan has also offered to have the Telluride Historical Museum be involved

Galloping Goose Trail

- Rich wants to build a bridge over the GG trestles from GG trail to Bilk Creek
 - This would realign the trail on the railroad grade
- Ted discussed writing a letter of support to the Town of Mountain Village

- It may be worth incorporating Telluride Mountain Club on the project
- This improvement would play into the DVCT, by making the connection between the two trails uniform

Mill Creek Park Signage

- The Open Space Commission will contribute to the signage but the Historical Commission will be the driver
- There is not a lot of information on San Miguel City. Only 2-3 photos survive. There won't be a need for a lot of signage. Keep it simple
- John presented the idea of incorporating the signage into the shade structure

America 250 Colorado 150 Celebration

- Kiernan brought to our attention this celebration taking place in 2026
 - He was looking for ideas to help commemorate the occasion
- John presented his idea that we could gather a mock constitutional convention in Telluride, to write a current day constitution
- Ted said the Historical Commission would be able to assist with the celebration

EPA Grant Update

- The County acquired a grant with the EPA for \$500,000 with no matching fund requirement to revitalize historic structures for reuse and repurpose
 - The County contracted Ayres Consultants to assess our historical structures
 - Matterhorn Mill was the driver of the grant
 - They are working with Mike at Silver Bell to conceptualize affordable housing units on his site
 - They are working with Will and Kelly at Sawpit Mercantile with conceptual renderings on the frontage and structure of their building
 - Pedestrian crossing to the Sawpit Mercantile
 - Also working on an area-wide planning concept for Placerville frontage
 - Maybe we can present a replica train depot as a hub for the frontage

BLM Historical Panels

- We have panels in our office that were created for the Leopard Creek Impson Property and never installed
- BLM has a kiosk that they can donate to us for installation of the panels
- It was discussed to possibly relocate the signage away from Leopard Creek

Galloping Goose #4 & GG Park

- Telluride Volunteer Fire Department has notified us that the GG4 train will not be coming back to Telluride
 - It is currently being used regularly in Ridgway
 - The maintenance of the train is also easier to do in Ridgway
- They would be open to donating the rails at the park to us
- We could pursue finding a replacement train, but no direct replacements exist
- If the Fruen building is redesigned, the historic shed on that property may need to be relocated to GG Park
- The idea of placing a historic fire truck, mining cart, or public sculpture was entertained

ADA Lift Update

- A representative from the Colorado Elections Bureau recently came to see the Court House accessibility for elections
- She discovered we are meeting the ADA standards by holding elections in the Fruen Building
- As for the accessibility of the Court House 1st floor, she did not see any obvious solutions for making it more compliant. We also have the challenge of bathroom access on the 1st floor.
- The Sheriff's department may move towards a single access point for security purposes

Wrights Mesa Historical Society

- They typically request POS Community Support Funding for \$1500 each year
- They missed the deadline for funding in 2024 and are requesting an exception to receive that funding from the HC in 2025
- The Historical Commission voted to grant their exception
- It was discussed to add them to the Historical Commission budget going forward

Lewis Mill

- Nico had an accident this year and was unable to complete the agreed upon work in 2024
- He has winterized the building and plans to complete the work in 2025
- The budget for the project has been rolled over into 2025

Historic Preservation MOU

- County has had a MOU in place with the US Forest Service
- This was originally a 5 year agreement for the Trout Lake Trestle and the Coal Chute structures
- We requested the County/USFS MOU Agreement be extended in perpetuity

Decommissioning of Howards Fork

- Includes the Penstock, Diversion Dam, and the Surge Tank
- The negotiations to bring the power plant back online have ended and it will be decommissioned
- The County is working with Xcel Energy on the transfer of the 3 structures to the County
- The County would also have to get a special-use permit from the US Forest Service to allow the structures to remain. The USFS is only supportive of allowing the County to potentially take ownership of the Surge Tank and not include the Penstock or Diversion Dam structures.

Meeting Adjourned – 7:07 p.m.

Next HC Meeting - Tuesday, 1/14/25, 5:30 p.m.