

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY
COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COEUR D' ALENE, IDAHO,
HELD AT THE LIBRARY COMMUNITY ROOM

April 2, 2024

The Mayor and Council of the City of Coeur d' Alene met in a regular session of said Council at the Coeur d' Alene City Library Community Room on April 2, 2024, at 6:00 p.m., there being present the following members:

James Hammond, Mayor

Woody McEvers) Members of Council Present
Christie Wood)
Dan Gookin)
Dan English)
Amy Evans)

Kiki Miller) Members of Council Absent

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Hammond called the meeting to order.

INVOCATION: Terese Fandel of Community of the Holy Spirit led the Invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Councilmember Wood led the pledge of allegiance.

PRESENTATIONS:

Michael Wendland, 2024 Coeur d' Alene Regional Realtors President, accepted the Proclamation declaring April 2024 as Fair Housing Month. Mr. Wendland thanked the Council and said that issuance of the said proclamation means a lot to them.

Walter Burns, Chairman of the Historic Preservation Commission, presented on the background of the Commission, key accomplishments, current efforts and up-coming activities on how they can work with the City to meet the goals and needs of the city residents. He noted that the Commission began its work in 2019 with a mission to promote the educational, cultural, economic, and general welfare of the public of the City of Coeur d'Alene through the identification, evaluation, and designation of those buildings, sites, districts, areas, structures, and objects that constitute or contain significant elements of historic, architectural, archeological, and cultural interest reflecting the heritage of the City, the State, and/or the nation. He said that some of the notable accomplishments of the Commission include: the creation of the Historic Preservation Plan for the City of Coeur d'Alene; preservation of the Hamilton House which now houses the Music Conservatory of Coeur d'Alene; establishment of the Heart of History Award; and nomination of the Garden District to the National Register of Historic Places. Mr. Burns explained that the Garden District has been a major undertaking which involved researching 520 primary buildings and roughly 400 outbuildings to determine whether each is contributing to the establishment of a

historic district. He shared that the neighborhood meeting will be held on April 8, 6:00 p.m. at the Library Community Room and the Idaho State Historic Review Board will meet on May 18 to vote and hopefully advance the nomination to the National Parks Service.

Shannon Sardell, Commissioner of the Historic Preservation Commission, presented the Commission's priorities for the year 2024. She mentioned that the month of May is National Historic Preservation Month, and they have several planned events which include: the reception at the Jewett House on May 1 at 6:00 p.m. where the Mayor will present the Heart of History Award; tours of downtown, Fort Grounds, Sanders Beach, and Garden District; Mothers' Day open house tours with the Northern Pacific Railroad Depot and Hamilton House on May 12; the Commission will also share a booth with the Museum at the Farmer's Market starting May 15; and there will be media coverage highlighting the history of Coeur d'Alene and importance of historic preservation. Ms. Sardell noted that, for 2024, they will also focus on the following: review of the historic downtown for possible update of overlays; 2024 grant application for downtown survey; historic zoning overlays and guidelines with the goal of preserving the character of Coeur d'Alene oldest areas; and review to come up with a modified demolition process. She added that the Commission is also involved in other issues such as: short-term rentals; infill guidelines; and management of the adverse effects to historic properties that may occur because of the I-90 widening project.

Mr. Burns mentioned two properties that are listed on the National Register of Historic Places that are both threatened with demolition are the Inland Empire Electric Railway Substation built in 1904 which is in poor condition and need substantial repairs; and the Roosevelt School built in 1905 now called the Roosevelt Inn which is under contract with the Redmond, WA firm and reportedly intends to replace it with 19 townhomes. He said that there are several ways that the Commission and the City can work together which is through historic recognition, planning, public outreach and education, community action, and creative reuse and revitalization. Councilmember McEvers asked about preservation efforts, to which Mr. Burns replied that when it comes to buildings, preservation would mean not tearing it down and as much as possible keeping it on its original configuration to preserve its history. Ms. Sardell explained that the Commission recognizes property rights of owners that are within historic areas, but they are trying to have a voice to get people to think about what they are doing and what the alternatives might be. Mayor Hammond thanked the Commission for helping the City preserve the neighborhood and its story.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Bill Brizee, Hayden, noted that the ITD has resynchronized the traffic lights at I-95; however, he encouraged the Council to push for the resolution he previously submitted which seeks to transfer control of the traffic lights from ITD to the local authority.

Eric Christen, Hayden, said that he feels that the entire community is under attack but there is no evidence, nor facts, to show that the racial hate incident happened. He asked the City officials to find facts and evidence and put closure on the issue.

Lynn Fleming, Coeur d'Alene, asked the Council to reengage and look at a way to engineer the urban renewal district to serve all citizens and not just absentee landowners and millionaires. She