

1 **PROVIDENCE CITY HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION**
2 **MEETING MINUTES**
3 **Providence City Office Building**
4 **164 North Gateway Drive, Providence UT**
5 **July 17, 2019 1:00 p.m.**

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7 Member Attendance: P Perry, H Christenson, G Trowbridge
8 Other Attendance: Rebecca Andersen, Utah State University professor
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10 **Discussion Items:**

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12 **Item No. 1.**

13 The Historic Preservation Commission will have discussion with Rebecca Andersen regarding the
14 history for a portion of the Utah-Idaho Central Railway that was located in Providence City.

- 15 • H Christenson said that we should start the process for making the railroad history.
16 Rebecca Andersen, a history professor at Utah State University, has offered to either
17 find a student to do the project or to do it herself.
- 18 • H Christenson passed out a sheet that lists important questions to consider about the
19 railroad.
- 20 • P Perry said that we should consider the aspects of the railroad that impacted people's
21 lives. For example, she has heard that in the winter time, people used to use it to
22 commute to Logan because the roads were not good. Why was the railroad
23 discontinued?
- 24 • G Trowbridge said that in the winter, it was how kids got to school and how people got
25 to town. People put their cars in the garage in the winter because the roads were so
26 bad.
- 27 • H Christenson said that the railway went from Hyrum to Preston.
- 28 • P Perry said that the Wells Fargo building in Smithfield used to be a railroad office.
- 29 • R Anderson asked if this railroad was a part of the Utah Idaho Central railroad, or if it
30 was just a commuter railroad.
- 31 • H Christenson said that the railroad connected to the main line which went all the way
32 to Salt Lake. S Bankhead said that the freight railroad was further west. We are probably
33 more interested in the commuter aspect than the freight aspect.
- 34 • P Perry said that trends after World War II led to a focus on automobiles and away from
35 public transit.
- 36 • R Andersen said that the railway in Kaysville was also discontinued due to similar trends.
- 37 • P Perry asked about the price of the commuter railway.
- 38 • H Christenson said that the train ran along 200 West in Providence, and the train depot
39 was near Zollinger Park at the end of center street.
- 40 • R Andersen said that we would want to know where the stops were, etc.
- 41 • R Andersen said that the first step would be to find the Herald Journal article that spoke
42 about the history of the railroad.
- 43 • H Christenson said that there is also some information in the book "Providence and Her
44 People."
- 45 • R Andersen asked what length of report the council is looking for. Are they looking for
46 about 30-35 pages?
- 47 • P Perry said that those doing the report should simply do their best.

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- G Trowbridge asked about the special collections at Utah State University.
 - R Andersen said that she has access to them. There might be some information there, but it might be focused on the freight lines.
 - P Perry brought up the canal system. She said that the US Department of the Interior is interested in preserving the history of the canals because they were essential to settlement in the intermountain west.
 - P Perry said that we already have a history of Spring Creek Water Company, but we don't have a history of the Blacksmith Fork irrigation water.
 - S Bankhead said that we would focus on Millville and Providence Blacksmith Fork Irrigation Company. There are other companies that take water out of the Blacksmith Fork River.
 - H Christenson said that he thinks we can get a grant for writing a history of the canal system.
 - R Andersen said that her classes sometimes do walking history tours. They could do something in Providence in the future.
 - P Perry said that if we could find an artifact of the railroad, we could get funding for it as well.
 - H Christenson asked if there will be money available from the city to pay someone for doing the railroad history.
 - S Bankhead said that if R Andersen writes a proposal, we can look at our budget. We have some money there.
 - R Andersen said that if she does it herself, she will count it as her service commitment to the university. If we find a student who is interested, however, they would appreciate some pay. It could turn into an internship for them.
 - P Perry suggested that the old tithing house would be a good place for a museum. It is important for kids to know their roots.
 - S Bankhead said that a museum has been suggested in the past, but we haven't had councils that were willing to support a museum.
 - P Perry asked if there would be photos of the old railroad in newspaper archives. She would be willing to make a presentation in classrooms about it.
 - H Christenson said that he has some pictures he can send.
 - R Anderson said that Providence's railroad exemplifies the pattern of community railroads that sprang up across Utah.
 - R Andersen left the meeting.
 - P Perry asked about the post office project.
 - H Christenson said that the owners of the post office will let us have it, but there is disagreement about what will happen if it ever gets moved from the Old Rock Church.
 - P Perry said that once we put money into it, we can't move it back to their property like they are requesting. Eventually the elements are going to take the building, and we are offering to save it for posterity.
 - H Christenson said that S Bankhead said she will talk to the city attorney to see if it is legal for us to accept an agreement where we could potentially have to give it back to the Leonhardt family after spending public funds on it. If it is legal, we can make the agreement the family wants so that we can get the building. It is unlikely that it will ever need to be moved off of the Old Rock Church property.
 - G Trowbridge said that the area around the Old Rock Church is a historical site. There shouldn't be an issue with keeping the post office there long term.

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- H Christenson said that if it sits where it is, it will fall apart. G Trowbridge said that if it stays where it is, no one will even know about it or its significance. She said that we should not give up on this.
- P Perry brought up the [Ev Thorpe] painting discussed in previous meetings. G Trowbridge said that someone with authority should talk to [the Astle family] about it.
- H Christenson said that there were similar problems with the family that owns the painting as with the family that owns the post office. They didn't like the language in the agreement.
- G Trowbridge said that the owner of the painting is having memory issues. We should talk to her daughter.
- P Perry said that we should act on acquiring the painting. There is a generation of people that were collectors of these historical items, and now they are passing on. If we don't act, their items will pass on with them.

Motion to adjourn: — P Perry, second — G Trowbridge

Yea: C Christenson, P Perry, G Trowbridge

Nay:

Abstained:

Excused:

Meeting adjourned at approximately 1:45 PM

Minutes prepared by Jesse Bardsley

Howard Christenson, Chair

Skarlet Bankhead, City Recorder