

1 **PROVIDENCE CITY HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION**

2 **MEETING MINUTES**

3 164 North Gateway Drive, Providence UT

4 May 21, 2019 6:00 p.m.

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6 Call to order: H Christenson, Chair

7 Attendance: H Christenson, P Perry, W Bitters

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9 **Minutes:**

10 **Item No. 1. Approval of the Minutes.** The HPC will consider approval of the minutes from the April 16, 2019
11 Historic Preservation Commission meeting.

12 **Motion to approve the minutes of April 16 — P Perry, second — W Bitters**

13 **Vote:**

14 **Yea: H Christenson, P Perry, W Bitters**

15 **Nay:**

16 **Excused: G Trowbridge**

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18 **Discussion Items:**

19 **Item No. 1. 2019 Projects:** The HPC will discuss restoring and relocating an old post office building; and a history
20 for a portion of the Utah-Idaho Central Railway that was located in Providence City.

- 21 • W Bitters said that the Leonhardt family is concerned that once the post office building is moved, it will be
22 destroyed by vandalism.
- 23 • Mayor Drew said that if we leave it where it is, it will continue to disintegrate.
- 24 • H Christenson said that Ralph Call, who owns the Old Rock Church, would love to have the post office on
25 his lot. He is trying to preserve the historic character on that block.
- 26 • W Bitters suggested making an agreement so that the city could borrow the building. The Leonhardts
27 would retain ownership.
- 28 • Mayor Drew said that such an agreement would not work if the city put in the money to repair the
29 building. P Perry agreed.
- 30 • P Perry said that the building will soon disintegrate beyond repair.
- 31 • Mayor Drew said that if someone is going to do anything with it, it should be done now.
- 32 • W Bitters suggested an agreement that if the building is ever moved, it will go back to the Leonhardt
33 property.
- 34 • Mayor Drew said that the conditions of this agreement would need to prevent them from taking it back
35 soon after the city had spent money to renovate it.
- 36 • P Perry suggested an agreement that if the building is moved, the Leonhardts can meet with the city and
37 decide on an appropriate place for relocation.
- 38 • W Bitters said that he will talk to Arlene of the Leonhardt family and tell her that we feel that the Old Rock
39 Church would be appropriate. However, the preferred location is Zollinger park. If they are not
40 comfortable with that, we can go with the Old Rock Church. We can make an agreement that if it ever has
41 to be moved from the Old Rock Church, they can have it back or have it moved to a mutually agreeable
42 place.
- 43 • H Christenson said that once it is at the Old Rock Church, we will probably not have to move it. Ralph Call
44 is in it for the long term. He won't be selling it any time soon. The post office will get a lot of traffic at that
45 location.
- 46 • W Bitters said that we could put a sign on Main Street to attract visitors.
- 47 • P Perry agreed with the plan. She asked if the State of Utah has decorative historical markers.
- 48 • H Christenson said that they do, but the property owner is responsible for paying for it and installing it. It
49 is a brass plaque that can be installed on historic homes.

- 50 • H Christenson got a letter form the US Department of the Interior Bureau of Reclamation. The letter
51 discusses irrigation systems in the State of Utah. They would like to designate canals that are more than
52 50 years old as historic. H Christenson asked Brian Olsen of the Blacksmith Fork Irrigation Company board
53 to look this over. We may want to do a study on the water systems in Providence as a historic
54 preservation project.
- 55 • B Olsen reported that he talked to Kathleen Alder about the train project. As for the water, he suggested
56 getting a grant to research the pioneer water system and the different phases of the evolution of the
57 culinary water system. The history of the quarry also relates to the history of Spring Creek. Blacksmith
58 Fork canals were historically important for farming. Doran Baker has written a book on the water system
59 that we could reference. It would be interesting to see how it all evolved.
- 60 • P Perry asked where we could find the historical data.
- 61 • B Olsen said that the irrigation companies might have historical records, such as minutes from old
62 meetings. There are also old water masters and mayors that are still alive. City archives also have data.
63 Pioneer organizations may also have records. The state has all the petitions for water rights along with
64 stories, and records of lawsuits that have gone on about water. Utah State University may also have some
65 information, including some records from the water companies that have been archived there.
- 66 • P Perry said that it might be a good graduate project for a USU student. She felt that we could propose it.
- 67 • B Olsen asked about grant money.
- 68 • H Christenson is not sure what we could get.
- 69 • W Bitters thought that the state will match up to \$10,000.
- 70 • B Olsen asked about the train project.
- 71 • H Christenson said that we did not get funding from the state for that, because we had no artifacts related
72 to it. We have Rebecca Anderson, a professor from USU, helping with that research.
- 73 • W Bitters asked if the letter from the Department of the Interior is about preserving the history of the
74 irrigation systems or about preserving the canals themselves. H Christenson said that it is about gathering
75 information so that they have enough information to preserve the canals.
- 76 • H Christenson asked B Olsen to take the letter to the canal board so that they can decide if they want to
77 pursue it.
- 78 • W Bitters thought that the research about the canals would mostly involve a project manager who would
79 bring together everything that has already been written.
- 80 • H Christenson discussed the train project. Rebecca Anderson wants to meet with the commission.
81 However, she has been busy with finals and graduation. She said that if she couldn't find a graduate
82 student to do the research, she would do it herself.
- 83 • P Perry said that we could also ask her about the canal idea.
- 84 • W Bitters thought that we could get a state grant for the canal history because we have artifacts
85 remaining.
- 86 • W Bitters said that the canals are an interesting subject because they are a marvel of engineering. It is
87 amazing that the pioneers were able to get the elevation right so that there is always downhill flow.
- 88 • The commission planned to invite Rebecca Anderson to the next meeting.

89 **Motion to adjourn the meeting: — P Perry, second — W Bitters**

90 **Vote:**

91 **Yea: H Christenson, P Perry, W Bitters**

92 **Nay:**

93 **Excused: G Trowbridge**

94

95 Meeting adjourned at approximately 6:38 pm

96 Minutes prepared by Jesse Bardsley