

## **Historic Preservation Review Board Work Session Wednesday, March 9, 2016 6:00 PM**

The meeting of the Historic Preservation Review Board was called to order by Acting Chair, David Harsh, at 6:03 PM at Town Hall.

Acting Chair, Margie Martin called the roll.

Board Members present: Margie Martin, Stephen Revella, Jeff Iverson, and David Harsh. Excused absence: Mike Vouri

Also present: Sandy Strehlou, HPRB Coordinator; Peggy Sue McRae, Recording Secretary.

### **Minutes**

The HP board approved HPRB minutes for February 24.

### **Blair Ave Mural Proposal**

HPRB Coordinator Sandy Strehlou initiated a discussion on the proposed mural for Blair Ave as well as the approach of the HPRB to commenting on murals and the role of the HPRB in conjunction with the FHAC, Friday Harbor Arts Commission, as advisory to Town Council.

The Blair Ave mural proposal is on private property within the historic district. The stated HPRB position is that murals are not appropriate on historic buildings or anywhere within the historic district. That said, as this mural project will likely go ahead, the board saw some value in weighing in by assessing the project using the criteria in the TFH ordinance language 14.08.050.

For the record the HPRB reiterated materials be reversible and removable. The board also agreed with the message sent by board member Mike Vouri (excused absence) as follows, "I suggest that the Town Council take a step back and consider allowing the town's profound historic character to be reflected on its own merit rather than force feeding it with illustrated novels on its structures."

### **14.08.050 Approval Criteria**

- |                 |                 |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| A. – <b>Yes</b> | D. – <b>Yes</b> |
| B. – <b>Yes</b> | E. – <b>Yes</b> |
| C. – <b>Yes</b> | F. – <b>Yes</b> |

G. The board divided G. into 3 parts.

1. All murals shall be compatible with existing architecture. - **Yes**
2. All murals shall be compatible with the area surrounding the proposed site.  
**No.** Comments: *Proposed mural is adjacent to the historic Presbyterian Church and across the street from Blair House and near historic Spring Street School (Nash house). The mural will impact the view shed coming onto Blair from Spring Street. No historic president.*
3. Murals shall not obstruct or obscure the significant architectural elements of historic structures and sites. - **Yes**

H. – **Yes**

I. – **No.** Comments: *The proposed mural is not at pedestrian scale, color is too saturated, is not authentic to the history of the town.*

J. – **No.** Comments: *The agricultural narrative of the proposed mural does not relate to the town but to the entire Island blurring that distinction.*

In conclusion the HPRB is concerned about the over proliferation of murals in Friday Harbor and concurs with the FHAC that overrepresentation of one artist's style may lend itself to an undesirable "theme town" look.

### **Historic Preservation Month in May**

May is Historic Preservation month. This year Friday Harbor's Historic Preservation program will be 20 years old. The board began discussion of TFH HPRB Partners in Preservation Awards and 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Reception to be held at Brickworks on May 25. Strehlou recommended inviting past board members and founders of the program. Board member David Harsh suggested an "In Memoriam" tribute to historic structures we have lost.

Meeting adjourned 7:30

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Margie Martin, Acting Chair

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Peggy Sue McRae, Recording Secretary