

**HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
SPECIAL MEETING
Butte Silver Bow Archives Auditorium
10:00 A.M.**

June 20, 2023

Members Present: Steve Hinick, Mitzi Rossillon, Bobbi Stauffer, John Weitzel, John Riordan, Jennifer Petersen, and Tracy Miller

Excused Absence: None

Staff: Kate McCourt, HPO
Pauline Giacomino, URA Financial & Project Manager

- i. Call to Order:** The Historic Preservation Commission Meeting was called to order at 10:00 A.M.
- ii. Roll Call:** All members present, quorum established.
- vii. New/Old Business:**

- Design Review Discussion (no vote): PRAXIS CENTER (New Construction)**

Ms. McCourt introduced Ray Rodgers and Phil with the Praxis Center, and John and Ali from Cushing Terrell (CT), the Architecture firm tasked with the creation of the building. The HPO met with the group a few weeks prior, and they discussed their vision with her. She had some initial concerns about the contemporary style of the building that she voiced to them. However, she learned some interesting approaches about where they drew their inspiration from the surrounding landscape and built environment and felt that the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) would benefit from hearing directly from the architects and the business owners, before the design is finalized.

John Bolton from CT kicked off the presentation by thanking the HPC for the opportunity. They are at the schematic design stage, and the project has been in the works since 2008 and CT has been with them through the whole process. He pointed out that Mr. Rodgers has always envisioned this project being located in Uptown Butte and has never pictured it in another community despite other communities vying for it. Mr. Rodgers then spoke about the background of the project. He and a co-worker came up with the idea in 2008 while working for the National Center for Healthcare and Formatics (?). They were designing simulation training for the US Military. They discovered that simulation-based medical training is missing across rural America. They had a feasibility study created to determine if the idea was possible, and the results were exceptional. The Praxis Center will be the first of its kind in the nation. They anticipate training 5,000 rural healthcare workers per year, several days per training, increasing hotel stays per year, and a significant economic impact of

32 million dollars annually. Being Butte natives, they wanted the impact to be felt here while being approached by several other rural cities. The design of the facility really needed to meet the form and function of the Praxis Center. They also needed it to fit the historic character of Uptown Butte while being a modern world-class training facility. Large training spaces were required, as well as a helicopter pad and a contained area for ambulatory training that would not hinder Butte's regular flow of traffic. They wanted to add public green space as well with the creation of a park-like area. They would like to break ground by the fall of this year or March of next year. Mr. Rodgers spoke about the team that he is building, and he introduced Phil Wartham (?) as a world-class talent found in a national search. Phil is one of the few experts who has experience running a large-scale simulation program.

Mr. Wartham spoke next as Chief Clinical Simulation Officer for Praxis and will oversee the operations from building the center to keeping it running. He spoke about his career and how he came to be in the healthcare simulation field.

Ali Vasarella, Project Architect, then spoke about the design process and design of the building, with a Power Point presentation. She showed the earlier renderings. She said that none of the renderings are final, and that they are here to get input. CT took inspiration from the headframes, Archives Building, Phoenix Building, and others. They incorporated the iconography of the headframes into the current design of the building. The site is on Park Street and takes up one city block, and that section of Wyoming Street west of the building site has been given to the Praxis Group to create public green space. The building itself is "stepping down"; three stories to two stories to one level, with a basement beneath, and they wanted to capture a feeling of wellbeing and healing rather than a design that mimics any style. The stepped nature refers to the stepped landscape of the Berkley Pit and the difference in historic building heights. The gallus frames are incorporated into the building, and hold up the overhead canopy extending from the top floor. There is also headframe hoist (cages) symbolism on the center bay of the building as well as the east side.

viii. Announcements

VII. Public Comment not on the agenda

None.

Adjournment: Mr. Hinick adjourned the meeting. 11:02 AM

Respectfully submitted, Kate McCourt HPO