

## **Fire Mountain Arts Council**

### **MINUTES OF EMERGENCY MEETING**

July 11, 2005

Centralia College East

Board members present were Fred, Virginia, Steve, April, Vann, Breezie, Terry, Barb, Pat, Caroline, Pam, Brad, Louise, and Architect Gene Grulich.

This meeting was called because it must be decided if FMAC would like the Roxy to be designated as eligible to be an historical building, and time is of the essence. Mr. Grulich will inform us what this designation would entail.

Steve reported on the hazardous material assessment. The old floor tiles or the glue under them may contain asbestos. Encapsulation is an option, which could be simply to cover them with carpeting. (Estimate of carpeting cost is \$1,000.) Plaster is another item.

Breezy attended the CAFTA (Community Auction for Theater Arts) meeting at the Evergreen. The auction is September 10 at the Fairgrounds. If anyone is willing to help or donate for the auction can contact Breezy. Caroline will help ask for donations.

July 18, 7:30 p.m., there will be a public hearing to allow comments on the Roxy project. This is called by the City Planning Commission.

Note: we need a sign on the Roxy, "Roxy Renovation Project." Cheryl Shondel will take care of this.

The neon work on the Roxy sign will soon be finished; Caroline and Bob Sokol will pick it up in Seattle. The same volunteers that removed it will be on hand to install it!

Mr. Grulich arrived. He informed us that the \$72,750 we will receive from the federal government will be administered by HUD. There is a federal law that public funds cannot be used to adversely affect public property. There cannot be a negative impact on historic property. It's up to the State Historical Preservation Office to monitor such impact. There will be an historical review process. It includes property deemed eligible to be historic. There is no requirement that it BE historical. FMAC will receive the above funds whether the Roxy is an historical building or not.

Some FMAC members expressed fear of bureaucratic demands, increased expenses, and loss of control if the Roxy were named historic. Mr. Grulich said it would really not change his plans very much. The front of the building has more significance than the back, and would remain the same, except for new paint, restored sign, etc. The

chairs, and even a change to stadium seating, would be considered furniture, not permanent, so the inside would be our preference. The roof is no issue, nor extending the building in the back. Note: some of the federal funding could be used in the old Laundromat area, although it is non-historic.

The advantages of the Roxy's historical designation: more opportunities of public funding, investment tax credits, and more publicity.

The historical route could lead to a nomination process. Mr. Grulich would charge \$3500 for his services to compile a nomination. He would determine historical components--for example, the box office.

Pam said Russ Holter of the SHPO has visited Morton because of the train depot situation. He saw the Roxy and didn't like the electrical setup and a few other items. He suggested the old projectors be displayed somewhere.

Mr. Grulich suggested we send a delegation to the SHPO (State Historical Preservation Office) in Olympia. The Roxy plans must be presented. FMAC members should talk with Greg Griffith, Steven Matheson or Michael Houser. Mr. Grulich said in his experience the SHPO would work with us to find a solution both sides can accept.

FMAC thanked Mr. Grulich for coming to speak. At this point he left the meeting.

Motion was made that FMAC would not like the Roxy to be designated as eligible to be an historical building. Motion seconded. Discussion. Motion rescinded.

April stated that private funding is getting harder to find. Public funding may be the only way that the Roxy will be finished. More discussion followed, including the imperative need of the stage opening being wider.

Motion was made that FMAC would like the Roxy to be designated as eligible to be an historical building, if this designation does not severely limit the options of FMAC. Motion seconded and carried.

Steve will call the SHPO for an appointment, and also ask Mr. Grulich to attend the meeting with the FMAC delegation.

Meeting adjourned.

Louise Fisher, Recording Secretary