

Our Chance to Preserve Ketchum's History [limit 300 words]

Dear Editor,

We are honored to have been selected by Mayor Bradshaw to serve on Ketchum's Historic Preservation Commission, which has been meeting regularly April 2021. Meeting agendas and minutes are all found on ketchumidaho.org under the "Historic Preservation Commission" tab.

With so many important issues vying for our attention, from workforce housing to the Warm Springs Preserve, all in the midst of the pandemic and unprecedented growth, it's been understandably hard to capture the public's interest in preserving Ketchum's historic structures. Public attendance at our meetings – either by Zoom or in person – has been less than robust, which is cause for concern with development pressures mounting.

Rest assured that we have no intention of impeding the rights of property owners to demolish or otherwise alter their buildings. In the first place, our state constitution wouldn't allow any sort of mandatory deed restriction. In the second place, we do not believe a punitive approach will work. If our collective goal is to uphold and exalt Ketchum's truly special community character, then we must start with the community. We seek your input.

We also seek to clarify that the Design Guidelines the City is proposing are an entirely separate discussion. The consultants from Colorado who have been drafting these Design Guidelines have no input on the designation of historic structures.

As Commissioners we seek to fulfill the mission set forth by the mayor, council, and our charter. The results will be enhanced with input from our community. Please join us.

Respectfully,
Ketchum's Historic Preservation Commission
Mattie Mead, Chair
Wendolyn Holland, Vice-Chair
Jennifer Cosgrove
Jakub Galczynski
Rick Reynolds

[266 words]