



PRESS RELEASE

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Phyllis McDonough Robinson

Communications and Public Affairs Manager

435-615-5189 office

435-901-0266 mobile

Park City Joins Statewide Celebration of National Preservation Month *Cultural tourism is a significant economic driver in Park City*

Park City, Utah - May 20, 2015

The past and present met Monday evening at the historic Nelson Cottage on Park Avenue as part of a community celebration of National Historic Preservation Month and Utah Archaeology and Preservation Month. Sixty people attended this sold out event co-hosted by High West Distillery and Saloon and the Park City Planning Department to showcase the importance of cultural tourism in Park City's economy.

Mayor Jack Thomas opened the evening sharing stories from his grandparents of their life during Park City's silver mining era. *"Our historic character is one of the city's core values. Preserving our strong sense of place together with our physical ties to the past in the built environment is essential to our ongoing success as a community and for our resort economy."* The Mayor was followed by Sandra Morrison, Executive Director of the Park City Museum and Christopher Merritt, Deputy State Historic Preservation Office. Together the speakers presented a rich tapestry of photographs, stories and data, documenting Park City's mining and skiing history and the City's efforts to preserve these cultural resources.

- There are more than 412 historic properties in Park City. Of these properties, 192 are designated as Landmark —structures that are at least 50 years old, retain their historic integrity (including location, design, setting, and materials) and are significant in local, regional, and national history.
- An additional 217 sites are designated as Significant – structures that are at least fifty years old, retain their essential historic form (as defined by the Land Management Code), and are important in the history of Park City.
- A Historic District Grant program to assist property owners with external improvements to help rehabilitate historic properties was created in 1987. Since 2005 the City has provided nearly \$400,000 in grants to 32 privately-owned properties.

-- more --

- The City has two preservation planners on staff dedicating to preserving historic properties and developing resources to assist owners of historic properties to rehabilitate and maintain their properties.
- The Historic Preservation Board annually awards its Historic Preservation Award recognizing a significant preservation project in the community. This year the Historic Preservation Board recognized the preservation work on the garage at 101 Prospect Avenue.

Park City Municipal also has an aggressive historic preservation program for its city buildings. City Hall, formerly the Marsac Elementary School built in 1936, underwent a \$7 million renovation in 2008. The \$9 million transformation of the historic Park City Library building is nearing completion with its grand reopening scheduled for June 13. Upcoming city-sponsored projects include at least \$800,000 for upgrades of the iconic McPolin Farm, as well as the adaptive reuse of several city-owned historic properties on Park Avenue for affordable housing and community uses.

Mayor Thomas concluded the evening commenting on the recent Daly West mine collapse that damaged the head frame. *“The collapse of the mine shaft that caused this iconic structure to fall shows the vulnerability of our mining history.”* The City is dedicating significant resources to work with the Jordanelle Special Services District, the owner of the Daly West mine, to restore and preserve this structure.

###